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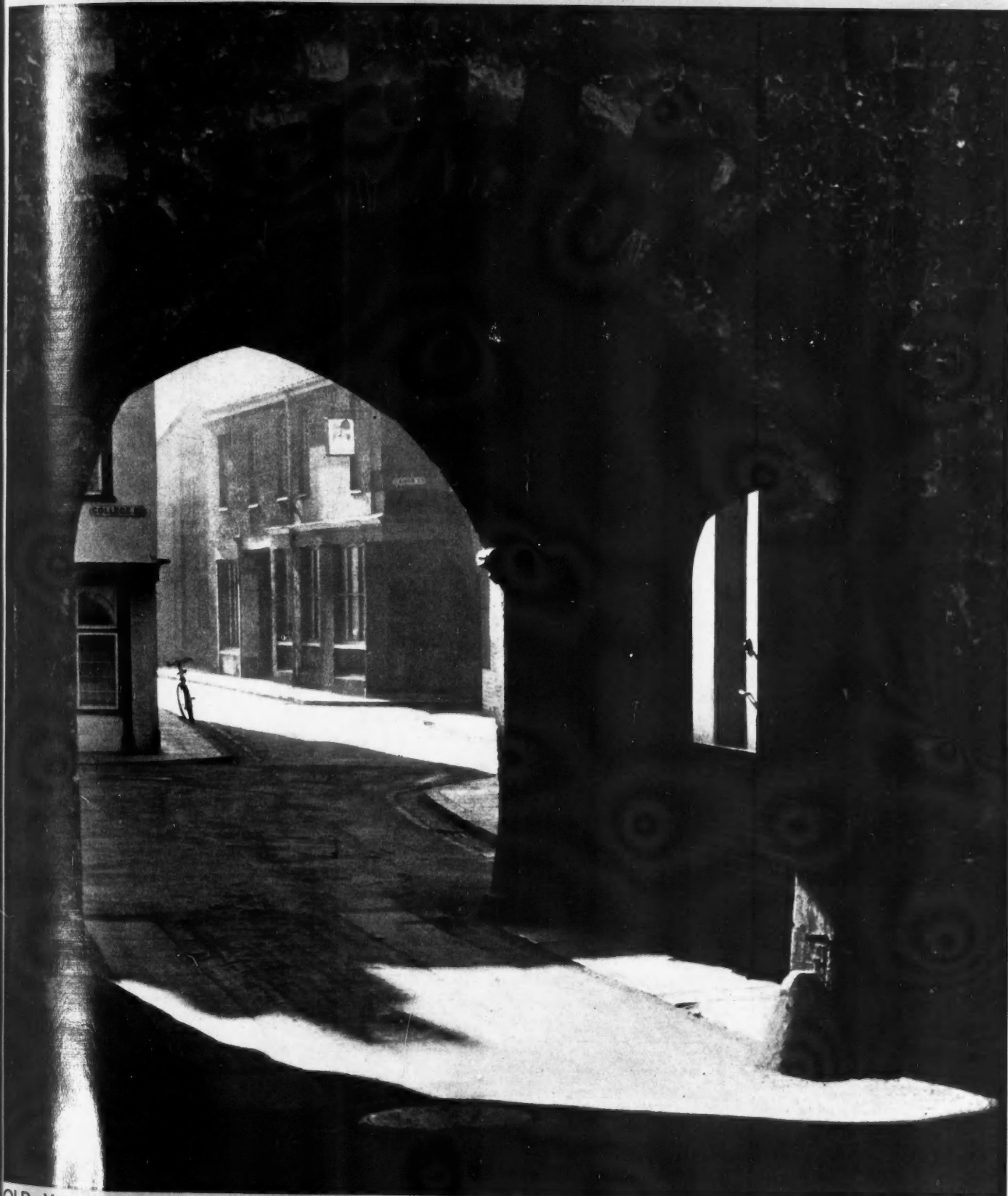
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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCIV. No. 2444

NOVEMBER 19, 1943

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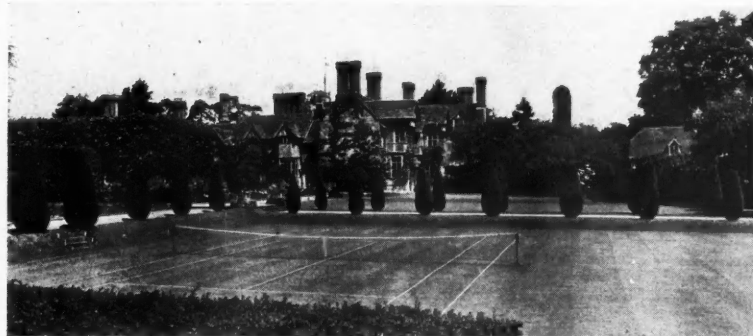
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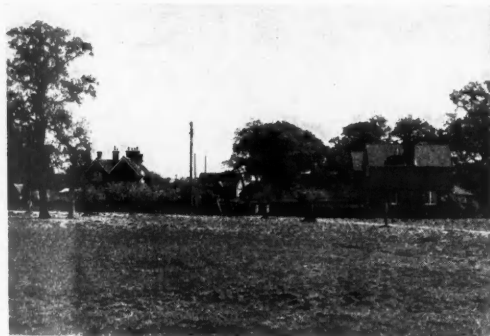
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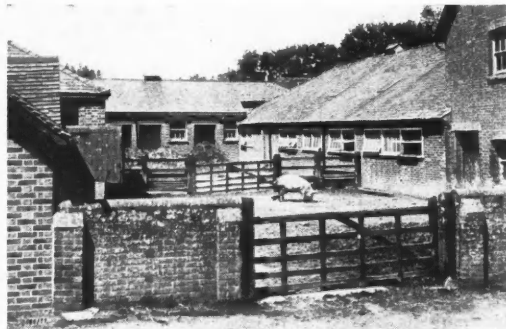
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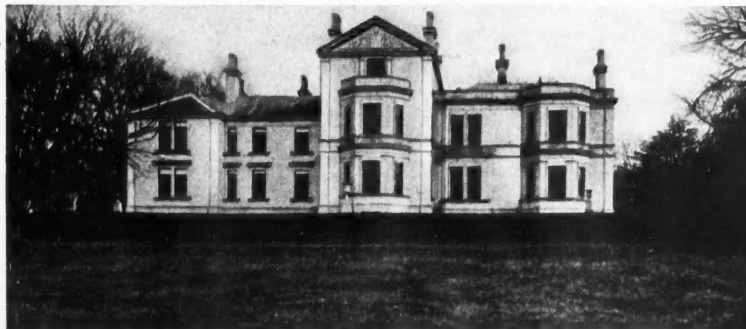
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Particulars and Plans (price 1s. 6d. each) from the Auctioneers: JACKSON STOPS AND STAFF, 20, Bridge Street, Northampton (Tel.: 2615/6), 8, Hanover Street, London, W.1 (Tel.: Mayfair 3316/7), Leeds, Cirencester and Yeovil. Solicitors: Messrs. FOX, WHITTUCK, PITT & ELWELL, Orchard House, Orchard Lane, Bristol, 1 (Tel.: Bristol 23374).

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Boston 2 miles.

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ON THE EAST SUSSEX COAST

Close to the Sea, Golf, Tennis and Village—station under a mile.

A TILED SUSSEX RESIDENCE IN FARM-HOUSE STYLE

"ARCHITECT-BUILT" IN 1930. AND EASILY RUN.

4 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms (all h. & c. basins),

2 bathrooms, maid's sitting-room and offices.

CENTRAL HEATING.

POWER POINTS EVERYWHERE.

MAIN ELECTRICITY, WATER, GAS AND DRAINAGE.

OAK PANELLING AND FLOORS

THROUGHOUT GROUND FLOOR.

GARAGE FOR 2 CARS.

1 ACRE WELL STOCKED GARDENS

150 FRUIT TREES.

VACANT POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

AT ABOUT COST PRICE

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By Direction of Capt. J. D. Ashley.

EASTCOTE HOUSE, TOWCESTER



GEORGIAN HOUSE

Hall, 2 reception, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Company's

electric light.

PRETTY GARDEN. GARAGE AND STABLING.

3 ACRES

AUCTION at NORTHAMPTON, WEDNESDAY,

DECEMBER 8, 1943

Auctioneers: JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, Northampton.

WITH VACANT POSSESSION

NEAR BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS

Excellent train service to London.

AN ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE

WELL PLANNED, BUILT AND FITTED FOR THE

PRESENT OWNER.

3 good reception rooms, 6 bedrooms (3 with basins),

2 bathrooms. Maids' sitting-room and offices.

TWO FLOORS ONLY.

CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT.

MAIN ELECTRICITY, WATER AND GAS.

SANDY-GRAVEL SOIL.

1 ACRE OF BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

LILY POND. FINE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

GARDEN. GREENHOUSE. MANY LOVELY

EVERGREEN TREES.

NOTE.—AN EASILY-RUN HOUSE IN EXCELLENT

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PRICE £7,500 FREEHOLD

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SUSSEX

In a beautiful district 2 miles from a Railway Station, having first-class service of non-stop trains to London, doing the journey in 50 minutes.

A BEAUTIFUL TUDOR HOUSE

with more recent additions. It possesses richly carved bargeboards, old mullioned windows with leaded lights, and is built of small hand-made bricks, the roof being mostly covered with Horsham stone flagging. All the reception rooms and principal bedrooms are oak panelled. Main electric light, gas. Central heating. Company's water. Main drainage.

Inner hall, library and smoking room, great parlour, little parlour, dining room, 16 bed and dressing rooms, billiards room, 7 bathrooms, and convenient domestic offices.

Garage. Stabling. Chauffeur's flat. Henry VII lodge. Gardener's house. Farmhouse and cottage.

The GARDENS form a perfect complement to the beautiful House, formal garden, bowling alley, privy garden, stately lime avenue, herbaceous borders, and fine old lawns, and have been MAINTAINED up to pre-war standard. Hard tennis court. Productive KITCHEN GARDEN with RANGE OF GLASSHOUSES. PARKLAND and WOODLAND.

Home Farm with Buildings and Dairy.

Grass and Arable Land.

IN ALL ABOUT 150 ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE



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Village and Station 1 mile. East Grinstead 6 miles. Tunbridge Wells 9 miles.
400 FT. UP FACING SOUTH AND COMMANDING EXTENSIVE VIEWS

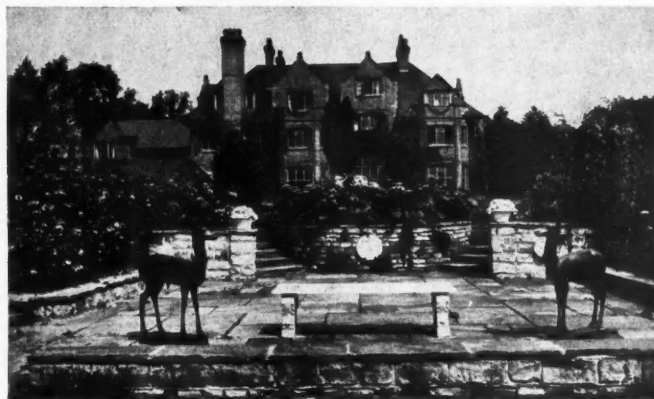
THE WELL-BUILT HOUSE
erected of brick, with stone dressings and tiled roof,

is about 100 yds. from the road and approached by a winding drive with a bridge at entrance.

Entrance Hall, 4 reception rooms, 15 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Central heating. Electric light. Telephone. Abundant water supply. Sewerage and drainage system.

Stabling and Garage Accommodation with 3 cars attached. Bailiff's house with bathroom.



THE GARDENS AND GROUNDS include Terrace and stone-flagged Rose Gardens, Heath, Rock and Wild Gardens. Hard Tennis Court, Lily Pond. Kitchen Garden, Pasture and Woodland.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

with about 40 ACRES

The Main Residence is at present under requisition and certain portions of the remainder of the property are let.

Further particulars of Sole Agents: Messrs. TURNER, RUDGE & TURNER, East Grinstead, Sussex; or Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (39,495)

Executive Sale.

SALMON FISHING IN THE WYE

Stretch of over 1-mile in this famous river.

Situated between Hereford and Ross. The Rights which are exclusive from one bank form some of the finest Salmon Fishing in the Country.

About 50 fish are caught during an average season, many of which are over 30 lb. in weight.

PRICE £6,000

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IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH DOWNS.

An old-fashioned Gabled Residence standing about 470 ft. above sea level, facing South with fine views.

Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, billiards room, 10 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms.

Electric light. Central heating. Stabling for three. 2 garages. Cottage.

The Grounds extend to 8 to 10 ACRES.

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CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

NEAR READING

Station 2 miles. 40 Minutes Paddington.

A VERY CHOICE MODERN RESIDENCE

PERFECTLY APPOINTED WITH OAK GROUND FLOOR

CHARMING LOUNGE 22ft. x 21ft. Folding doors divide off dining room. Study. 4 bedrooms (wash basins), dressing room, well-fitted bathroom.

EXCELLENT DOMESTIC OFFICES. LARGE GARAGE. ALL MAIN SERVICES. PARTIAL CENTRAL HEATING

SECLUDED GARDENS

WITH LOVELY WOODLAND GARDEN

VACANT POSSESSION. PRICE FREEHOLD £5,000

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OUTSKIRTS OF A THAMES RIVERSIDE TOWN

Close to shopping centre and station.

A WELL-BUILT COUNTRY RESIDENCE FOR SALE ON HIGH GROUND IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC

3 reception rooms, lounge hall, 7 bedrooms (two with running water). Bath.

EXCELLENT DOMESTIC OFFICES. GARAGE.

ALL SUPPLY SERVICES. PARTIAL CENTRAL HEATING.

A WELL-STOCKED AND MATURED GARDEN WITH LAWNS.

FLOWER, VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GARDEN.

In all about

3/4 ACRE IN EXTENT

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Accessible to Beaconsfield, Gerrards Cross, and Stoke Poges.



EXTREMELY FINE ARCHITECT-BUILT RESIDENCE on picked site overlooking extensive private park. Drawing room, 35 ft.; 2 reception, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. "Aga." Cloaks. Separate cottage (known as "The Cottage"). Stabling. Garage. Main services. Well-planned garden, lawns, and grassland. 9 ACRES. Possession. F. L. Mercer & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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First Time in the Market for 50 Years. HISTORICAL JACOBINE MANOR HOUSE. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main services, central heating. Double garage and stabling. 2 cottages (one let). Well-timbered grounds, fruit and kitchen garden. 3 paddocks. 10 ACRES. ONLY £6,000 FREEHOLD. Possession.

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SOMETHING EXCEPTIONAL IN SURREY

A RARITY IN TO-DAY'S MARKET



Between Horley and Worth Forest. 38 minutes London. **QUEEN ANNE FARMHOUSE**, modernised regardless of cost. 3 reception, cosy and hospitable cocktail bar. Oak floors and panelling. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. "Aga." cooker; central heating; main services. Garage. Typical country garden and paddock. Long drive approach. 5 ACRES. Owing to cost owner cannot take lot less than £9,000. Sole Agents: F. L. Mercer & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.



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IN THE TWICKENHAM DISTRICT
Close to the station, with fast service of trains to the City and West End. Shops, buses near.
A FINE OLD GEORGIAN RESIDENCE



superbly appointed and containing hall, beautiful drawing room, 41 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in.; 2 other reception rooms, billiard room, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

All main services. Central heating.
Garage for 4. Air raid shelter.
Lovely grounds intersected by a river, with two artistic bridges, lawns, fine trees, walled kitchen garden, range of glass, etc.

3 ACRES IN ALL

PRICE FREEHOLD £9,000

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A SOUND PROPOSITION

In the favourite Woking district. About 1½ miles from the Main Line Station. Near golf.
PICTURESQUE RESIDENCE



approached by long drive.
2 reception rooms, fine billiard room, 7 bedrooms, dressing-room, bathroom. All main services. Central heating.
Secluded garden of about 1 ACRE with tennis court, rockeries and other features.

LET FOR THE DURATION
TO GOOD TENANTS AT
£300 P.A.

TO-DAY'S PRICE
£3,950

AN IDEAL RESIDENCE FOR A LONDON BUSINESS MAN FOR POST-WAR OCCUPATION.

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DORSET

High situation with good views. Near Parkstone Golf Course.
ATTRACTIVELY DESIGNED RESIDENCE
WITH DUE SOUTH ASPECT



Lounge hall, 2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms.

Main services. Radiators.

Garage. Greenhouse.

Matured garden, with tennis lawn, lily pool, fountain, and other features.

1 ACRE IN ALL

PRICE FREEHOLD £3,000

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BEACONSFIELD

In a quiet and unrivalled position. On bus route and within ½ mile of station.
Near golf courses.

A DELIGHTFUL RESIDENCE

IN EXCELLENT DECORATIVE ORDER, APPROACHED BY A DRIVE

Hall and cloakroom, 3 good reception rooms, modern offices, 5 principal bedrooms (3 with hand basins), well-equipped bathroom, 2 staff bedrooms and bathroom.

ALL MAIN SERVICES. CENTRAL HEATING. PARQUET FLOORING TO PRINCIPAL ROOMS

GARAGE. GREENHOUSE

MATURED GARDEN, WITH LAWNS, LILY GARDEN, PERGOLAS, AND A WOODLAND GLADE

IN ALL ABOUT 1 ACRE. PRICE FREEHOLD £7,500

JUST IN THE MARKET

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CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES

(1/6 per line. Min. 3 lines)

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NORTHWOLD, NORFOLK
7 miles from Brandon. WITH VACANT POSSESSION. Attractive Georgian Country Residence and Grounds to be SOLD by AUCTION by
Messrs. ROBT. W. BELL & SON,
at the Globe Hotel, King's Lynn, on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1943, at 3 o'clock. The Residence will be offered in one lot fully furnished, and if not so sold will be offered in lots. Particulars, conditions of sale and Furniture Catalogues, price 6d., from the Auctioneers' Offices: 10, Alexandra Street, Cambridge. (Tel.: Cambridge 2353.)

SOUTH WILTS
THE OLD RECTORY FARM, HANGING LANGFORD.
About 1 mile from Wylie Station, adjacent to Grovely Wood for 1½ miles.

WOOLLEY & WALLIS
are instructed to SELL by AUCTION at SALISBURY on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1943, 290 ACRES in a ring fence. Water laid on, 201 Acres Corn Lands, 87 Acres Sound Old Down Land, useful Woodlands, including the Ancient British Encampment Langford Castle. The land lies largely level on upland plateau, easily worked, sheltered. Well served by hard roads and rail. VACANT POSSESSION. A most interesting property, Agricultural, Sporting and Amenity Purposes, and after-war Development.
Particulars, 6d., from the Auctioneers, WOOLLEY & WALLIS, The Castle Auction Mart, Salisbury.

By direction of the Executors of the late Duke of Rutland.

SUFFOLK
WOODBIDGE DISTRICT
A compact small Residential, Agricultural and Sporting Property, with yachting, golf and shooting facilities, in a good residential neighbourhood, known as LITTLE HADDON HALL ESTATE, SUTTON, of in all 736 ACRES, comprising: a modern medium-size Country Residence; the Ferry Farm of 225 acres; 8 cottages; woods and heathland of 500 acres, the whole bounded for a mile by the River Deben. With Vacant Possession on Completion. To be SOLD by AUCTION (unless previously disposed of by private treaty) at Ipswich on
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1943, by
GARROD, TURNER & SON
IPSWICH.

Particulars from the Solicitors: Messrs. DAWSON & CO., 2, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2; the Estate Agent: F. KINGSTON SMITH, Esq., Woodbridge; and the Auctioneers, 1, Old Butter Market, Ipswich (Tel.: 3127-28.)

AUCTIONS

By Direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. Thomas Woodhouse.

WORCESTERSHIRE
FINE COUNTRY ESTATE in beautiful surroundings within easy distance of Birmingham, 4½ miles from Kidderminster and 6 miles from Stourbridge, known as MONKS, CHADDESLEY CORBETT, having excellent accommodation, easy of upkeep with all modern conveniences, LODGE ENTRANCE, well-kept Gardens and Grounds, Orchard, several enclosures of Pasture and Arable Land extending in all to an area of about 35 ACRES, to be SOLD by AUCTION (unless disposed of in the meantime by private treaty) at the LION HOTEL, KIDDERMINSTER, on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1943, at 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon precisely. WITH VACANT POSSESSION.

For full particulars apply:
Messrs. HAWKINS & Co., Solicitors (Tel. 3188) or
or
ALFRED W. DANDO & CO.,
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FOR SALE

DEVON. Historic Residential, Agricultural and Sporting Property for Sale with immediate possession. Small Tudor Manor House, unspoilt but fitted with all modern conveniences. Farmery of 200 acres, several cottages, and woodland. Freehold £11,000.—HEWITT & CO., 19, Barnfield Road, Exeter.

KENT. In the favourite Tenterden District, charming small residential Estate, about 133 acres. Exceptionally attractive and substantially built residence, 5 principal bedrooms, dressing room, bath, 4 servants' bedrooms, lounge hall, 2 reception, billiard room and excellent offices. 2 detached cottages, excellent outbuildings. 133 acres meadow, arable and woodland. Freehold £7,500. Possession.—GEERING & COLYER, Bank Chambers, Ashford, Kent.

KENT. between Ashford and Maidstone. Gentleman's Ideal Small Residential and Agricultural Estate, 225 acres. Completely modernised residence, 5 bed, 2 bath, lounge, 2 reception and sun lounge, etc. Main water, electricity for light and power. Swimming pool. Cottage. Exceptional buildings. Meadow, arable and woodland. Freehold, £7,250. Possession.—GEERING & COLYER, Bank Chambers, Ashford.

KENT. close to market town of Ashford. Genuine Dairy and Stock Farm, 179 acres with excellent modernised farm Residence cottage and buildings, including cow stalls for 40. Freehold, £7,250. Possession.—GEERING & COLYER, Bank Chambers, Ashford, Kent.

FOR SALE

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SUSSEX BORDERS. Unique Estate of medium-sized detached Country Residences let on short-term tenancies to first-class tenants. Reasonable interest with prospect of considerable capital appreciation. FREEHOLD, £30,000. Apply Sole Agents: RACKHAM & SMITH, 31, Carfax, Horsham (Tel.: 311 and 312).

SUSSEX. Old Mill House, completely modernised. 5 bed, 2 reception, bath, etc. and model dairy farm of 27 acres, mostly short leys watered by stream. Excellent buildings, including large barn, accredited cowsheds for 10, bull pen, loose boxes, etc. Electric milking and sterilising. Main water, electric light and telephone. Freehold, £5,500.—Box 620.

WANTED

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Owners of small and medium-sized Country Properties, wishful to sell, and particularly invited to communicate with Messrs. SANDERS, Old Fore Street, Sidmouth, who have constant enquiries and a long waiting list of applicants. No sale—No fees.

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Situating right in the heart of beautiful country near the Downs.
A DELIGHTFUL HOUSE OF CHARACTER
principally Tudor with a modern addition.

Square hall, 2 large and 3 small reception rooms, 9 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms.

Main services. Central heating.

Garage. Large barn. Useful outbuildings.
Fine modernised Cottage or secondary Residence,
3 other Cottages (2 let)

Pleasure gardens, tennis lawn, vegetable garden, large paddock, larch wood, etc., in all

ABOUT 10 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Inspected and recommended by OSBORN & MERCER,
as above. (17,444).

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In delightful country near to a village and within 4 miles of a
main line station.AN ATTRACTIVE MODERNISED COUNTRY
HOUSE

3 reception, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Electricity and water. Central heating.

Garage. Stabling. Cottage.

Charming well-matured gardens, kitchen garden, orchard,
etc., in all

ABOUT 3 ACRES

For Sale at a Moderate Price.

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Situating over 400 ft. above sea level in a delightful old
village within convenient reach of main line stations.

AN ATTRACTIVE RED BRICK HOUSE

containing drawing room (40 ft. x 24 ft.), 2 other reception
rooms, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Main services. Central heating

Groom's cottage (with 5 beds, 2 reception, 2 baths)
2 other cottages, 3 garages, stable yard with range of
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Matured gardens and pastureland, in all

ABOUT 8 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,500

Full details from OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,447)

ON OUTSKIRTS OF WILTSHIRE VILLAGE

In a quiet position, approached by a drive over 100 yards in
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AN ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN HOUSE

On 2 floors only and in excellent order. Hall.
2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, well-equipped bathroom.

Main services. Central heating.

2 Garages. Extensive Stabling. Outbuildings.

Delightful matured gardens, walled kitchen garden,
orchard, paddock, etc., in all

ABOUT 5 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (M.2376)

SWANAGE (on Sea Front)

2 HOUSES ADJOINING AND INTER-
COMMUNICATING

In all 4 reception, 12 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Air Raid Shelter.

IDEAL FOR GUEST HOUSE, SMALL HOTEL,
ETC.

For Sale Freehold

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TWO—LEATHERHEAD AND DORKING

Fine position overlooking Mole Valley and National Trust
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DENCE** of Charm and Perfection. Large hall,
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Garage. All main services and central heating through-
out. LOVELY TERRACED GARDENS. Swimming
Pool, etc. In all nearly 2 ACRES.**SUBSTANTIAL PRICE REQUIRED, BUT AN
EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTY, ALL READY TO
WALK INTO**
WOULD BE SOLD COMPLETE WITH FURNITURE
AND EFFECTS

Details of RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, as above.

GLOS—WORCS BORDERS

Near renowned village and convenient for Cheltenham

**UNUSUALLY CHARMING GEORGIAN STYLE
RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER AND DIS-
TINCTION**, completely modernised and planned for
labour-saving. 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception
rooms and lounge; compact offices. Electric light.
Central heating. Garages and two cottages. Lovely old-
world gardens, orchard and paddock. In all about
6 ACRES. FREEHOLD. FOR SALE.
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DISTINCTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE WITH QUEEN ANNE CHARACTERISTICS

In a lovely setting, with due South aspect,

10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception
rooms, model offices. All main services.CENTRAL HEATING throughout.
Lavatory basins in bedrooms. Garage
with large loft over. Gardens of great
charm, studded with lovely shady trees.
Water garden woodland dell leading down
to small stream.

IN ALL ABOUT 5 ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE.

Highly recommended from personal knowledge by Owner's Agents: RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, as above.



EARLY POSSESSION.

Station Rd. East,
Oxted, Surrey.
Oxted 240.

F. D. IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO.

125, High St., Sevenoaks, Kent

Sevenoaks 1147-8.

45, High St., Reigate,
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Reigate 2938IN ONE OF KENT'S LOVELY VILLAGES
3 miles from Sevenoaks.**THIS FASCINATING ELIZABETHAN HOUSE**,
8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, cloak-
room, maid's sitting room, and excellent office. Main
drainage and electricity. Central heating. Delightful but
inexpensive gardens of 1 ACRE (at present under
requisition). **PRICE, FREEHOLD, £3,750.**Further details, apply Messrs. F. D. IBBETT, MOSELY,
CARD & CO., 125, High Street, Sevenoaks (Tel.: 1147/48);
and at Oxted and Reigate, Surrey.

IN 2½ ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS



SEVENOAKS

Close to Wildernesse Golf Links and Country Club
3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Usual
offices. Garage. Central heating. Electric light and gas.**PRICE £4,250 with VACANT POSSESSION.**Owner's Agents: Messrs. F. D. IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD
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UNRIVALLED SITUATION

On Limsfield Common. 500 ft. above sea level, with
magnificent Southern views.**BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED RESIDENCE**, with
spacious lounge hall, 3 fine reception rooms, 9 principal
bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, complete offices. Central heating,
electricity, fitted basins in all bedrooms. Three cottages.
Garage for 7 cars. Stabling. Beautiful pleasure grounds,
with hard and grass tennis courts, woodland, orchard, and
pasture; in all about 8 ACRES. More land available.
FREEHOLD, ONLY £8,500. For occupation after War.
Confidently recommended by Messrs. F. D. IBBETT,
MOSELY, CARD & CO., Oxted, Surrey (Tel.: 240); and at
Sevenoaks and Reigate.TOTTENHAM COURT RD., W.1
(Euston 7000)

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valued for Insurance, Probate, etc.

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Conducted in Town and Country

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In a country position only 11 miles from London, on a beautiful common.

TO LET, UNFURNISHED, ON LEASE, A CHOICE MODERNISED HOUSE
situate in altogether about 28 ACRESThe house, which has been the subject of large expenditure, contains, briefly: 3 or 4 reception rooms, about
10 bedrooms, several fine bathrooms and good offices.

CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT

FINE OUTBUILDINGS, 2 EXCELLENT COTTAGES, MOST ATTRACTIVE GARDENS, TENNIS COURT,
FINE KITCHEN GARDEN, ETC.

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(4 lines)

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(ESTABLISHED 1778)

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Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
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SOUTH CORNWALL

Almost adjoining a navigable creek. Charming marine and country views.

TWO CHARMING OLD COTTAGES (NOW CONVERTED INTO A SINGLE RESIDENCE)



2 reception, 5/6 bedrooms (3 with fitted basins), 2 bath, good offices with maids' sitting room.

Main electric light. Ample water supply. Stabling.

Gardens and grounds intersected by a stream.

In all about 1½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
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SURREY. HALF-HOUR BY ELECTRIC SERVICE

10 minutes station. In favoured residential district.

Immediate Possession. Faultless order. £7,000

MODERN SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT RESIDENCE, most tastefully decorated and with up-to-date fittings, etc. 8 bed, 2 bath, hall and 3 reception rooms, with parquet floors. Main services and central heating.

GARAGE 2/3 CARS AND CHAUFFEUR'S FLAT.

BEAUTIFULLY KEPT GROUNDS OF 2 ACRES

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TO BE LET UNFURNISHED. £130 PER ANNUM

In small New Forest Town adjoining old Priory Gardens

GEORGIAN RESIDENCE. 9 bed, 2 bath, 3 reception rooms. Main electric light and water. Garage. Old stabling.

4 ACRES OLD-WORLD GROUNDS

Small premium for fixture and fittings and improvements, including central heating. GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C2883)

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WESTERN MIDLANDS

POST-WAR POSSESSION. OWNER IN RESIDENCE.

GENUINE FOURTEENTH CENTURY "BLACK AND WHITE" RESIDENCE

Modernised, situated 1 mile from charming country town with first-rate bus services and station.

PRIVATE FISHING BOTH BANKS

Main electricity and power, central heating, main water, gas, telephone, independent hot water, lavatory basins. Bathing pool, water mill, 3 STONE-BUILT COTTAGES, excellent garage, diversified gardens and grounds of **3 ACRES**; with kitchen garden, stone-paved walks, tennis court, etc. Hall and 3 sitting rooms, 9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, servants' sitting room, "Esse" cooker (4 ovens), billiards room in mill. Oak beams, panelling, open fireplaces, moulded ceilings. The rooms are not low pitched; everything in beautiful order and condition.

PRICE FREEHOLD £7,500

Inspected and thoroughly recommended by Owner's Sole Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R.20,593.)

For Sale by order of Executors.

GUILDFORD DISTRICT

WELL-EQUIPPED MODERN COUNTRY RESIDENCE

SURROUNDED BY ITS OWN LANDS OF ABOUT **63 ACRES**

THE PROPERTY IS IN FIRST-RATE ORDER AND HAS BEEN VERY WELL CARED FOR BY THE LATE OWNER FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

Hall, oak lounge and 3 other sitting rooms, 15 bed and dressing rooms (some with basins), 3 bathrooms.

ALL MAIN SERVICES. LODGE AND 4 COTTAGES. MODEL FARMERY. STABLING AND GARAGE. WITH FLAT OVER. STREAM. HARD AND GRASS TENNIS COURTS. All land is in hand.

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Convenient for several important centres. (Post-war possession; not occupied by military.) Situated at a high altitude, commanding lovely distant views. Splendid bus services. Good shops 1 mile. Excellent sporting district.

4 sitting rooms, 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, main electricity and power. Stabling and garage with flat over.

THE GROUNDS ARE WELL LAID OUT. Paddock AND TENNIS COURT; ALSO 3 GRASS ENCLOSURES.

TOTAL AREA ABOUT

33 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £5,000

A REALLY GOOD PROPERTY AT A LOW PRICE

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WARWICKSHIRE

Near Kineton, Banbury and Leamington.

OLD STONE-BUILT TUDOR MANOR HOUSE the subject of considerable recent expenditure in modernisation.



9 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, lounge hall. Good offices.

Central heating. Main electricity.

Garage for 3, stabling for 12, with men's rooms.

Modernised cottage.

Old tithe barn.

ATTRACTIVE GROUNDS

of about

15 ACRES

FREEHOLD PRICE £10,500 Vacant Possession

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SUSSEX COAST

Between Littlehampton and Worthing.

A MOST DELIGHTFUL HOUSE IN THE GEORGIAN STYLE in perfect order and ready to walk into.

PRIVATE ENTRANCE TO BEACH.
12 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms

Central heating. Running water in bedrooms.

Electric light.

Garage for 2.

Chauffeur's room.

The Gardens with their Clipped Yew Hedges are a special feature and extend to about

4 ACRES

FREEHOLD PRICE £8,500

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VERY SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY Only just in the Market. Inspect Quickly.

West Sussex—Hampshire Borders

Beautiful Home of Charm and Character. XVIII Century, now modernised with every convenience. 3 reception, 5 bed, fitted basins. Bath. Main electricity. Company's water. Pretty gardens and paddock. **9 ACRES**. Fishing, Shooting, Golf. Vacant Possession. All in absolute perfect order.

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JUST OFFERED.

**VERY NICE BUNGALOW
RESIDENCE AND 15 ACRES. £2,250.**

SUFFOLK (Saxmundham).

Substantially built brick and tile artistic bungalow, 30 years old, 2 sitting, 4 bed, bath (h. and c.). Tiled grates, Triplex cooker. Excellent condition. Electricity quite near. Lawn, large orchard, garage and farmery. Lovely outlook. Early possession. Ideal for retired gentleman. Certain to be quickly sold.

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY,
184, Brompton Road, S.W.3. (Kens. 0152.)

SOUTH DEVON (14 Miles Torquay)

500 ft. up. Secluded and sheltered.

**SMALL RESIDENTIAL ESTATE,
32 ACRES**

Very Fine Modern Residence of Character

In absolutely perfect order and with every possible convenience. 3 reception, 9 bed and dressing rooms, 3 baths. Central heating. Electric light. Exceptional water supply by gravitation. Modern drainage. Lovely gardens, quiet, inexpensive.

Model farmery. Cottage.

32 ACRES, mostly rich pasture.

VACANT POSSESSION.

FREEHOLD ONLY £8,750

NEAR A LOVELY OLD-WORLD VILLAGE IN SUSSEX

Standing very high.

A perfectly fascinating and absolutely genuine Elizabethan Residence, modernised but unspoilt. Full of oak beams and panelling; single-nook fireplace; leaded windows and other features of the period. Square hall, 3 reception, 4 bed and 2 dressing rooms, bath. Electric light, excellent water, modern drainage. Pretty gardens, orchard, etc.

3 ACRES

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

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CHELTENHAM AND NORTH COTSWOLDS

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(Established over three-quarters of a Century.)
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GENTLEMAN'S FARM, OXON, HEYTHROP COUNTRY

Nearly 450 Acres.

VERY FAVOURITE PART.

Exceptionally desirable farming Estate on southern slope, highly farmed by present owner. Charming Cotswold stone residence, beautifully placed with lovely views. 3 reception, 5 bed, bath, electric light. Nice garden. Exceptional buildings. 2 cottages and 6000 ft. house. The whole forming a very complete and desirable property. Price and details of BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, 184, Brompton Road, S.W.3. (Kens. 0152.)

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Established 1875.

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1/2 mile from Henley Station.



MODERN RESIDENCE, pleasantly situated on high ground, with fine views. Near bus service. 3 reception, 7 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Company's electricity, gas and water. Central heating. Garage and outbuilding. Tennis court, lawns. Fruit and kitchen gardens. **2 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD.**
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BUCKS

Great Missenden 3 miles.

The **RESIDENCE**, designed by a well-known artist 35 years ago, is placed on high ground and part of a large estate. Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen and "Aga" cooker, 9 bedrooms, bathroom.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND TELEPHONE.
CENTRAL HEATING RECENTLY INSTALLED.
GARAGE. STABLING AVAILABLE.
GROUNDS, INCLUDING KITCHEN GARDEN,
IN ALL ABOUT
4 ACRES

TO LET UNFURNISHED
FOR 3, 5, OR 7 YEARS AT A REASONABLE RENT.

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Near Sutton and Cheam Stations. Half an hour by train to London.



EXCELLENTLY DESIGNED IN THE TUDOR STYLE. 3 reception, 9 bed and dressing rooms (6 with h. & c.), 2 bathrooms, 2 staircases. Co's electricity, gas and water. Central heating. Garage. Tennis court. Orchard and kitchen garden. **FOR SALE FREEHOLD.**
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MEON VALLEY

Beautiful spot of Hants, between Petersfield and Winchester.



MOST DELIGHTFUL XVIIIth-CENTURY HOUSE. In first-rate order, and with all main services. 5 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 good reception rooms. Garage. Charming gardens. Orchard. Paddock.
8 1/2 ACRES. £6,000
IMMEDIATE POSSESSION
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PERFECT POSITION IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PART OF DORSET

Easy reach of favourite market town, with express trains to London. Well placed for hunting.

A SMALL TUDOR MANOR AND ESTATE OF 1,000 ACRES

The stone-built house (A.D. 1610) is characteristic of the period. 9 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, galleried hall, 3 fine reception rooms. Charming but inexpensive gardens.

Stabling and other useful buildings. **TWO EXCELLENT FARMS**, with first-rate houses. **15 COTTAGES.**

An **EXCEPTIONAL SPORTING ESTATE** with about 90 acres of well-placed coverts. **FISHING** in a trout stream flowing through the property.

THE ESTATE IS IN A RING FENCE, WITH THE HOUSE IN THE CENTRE.



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Up to £10,000, with possession

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SILTON, DORSET

RAWLINGS & SQUAREY have been favoured with instructions from **MAJOR GEORGE TROYTE-BULLOCK** to **SELL BY AUCTION** at the **PHOENIX HOTEL, GILLINGHAM, DORSET**, on Friday, November 23, 1943, at 2.30 p.m.

THE VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

extending to about
679 ACRES

comprising **MAJOR FARM, SILTON (482 ACRES)**, with excellent Farmhouse, good set of Buildings, 5 Cottages. The Farm is let to G. R. S. Harris, Esq., on an annual Michaelmas tenancy.

FELTHAM FARM, SILTON (170 ACRES), with attractive Farmhouse, good set of Farm Buildings, 2 Cottages, let to N. Willis, Esq. on an annual Ladyday tenancy.

Also **ABOUT 100 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND** let on annual Michaelmas tenancy and a **CHARMING COTTAGE** let on a monthly tenancy.
PRINTED PARTICULARS AND PLANS (price 2s.) will shortly be available and may be obtained from the Auctioneers, Salisbury; 4, The Sanctuary, Westminster, S.W.1; 8, Dorset and Rownhams Mount, Nursling, Southampton, or the Agents, **V. P. FARNFIELD, Esq., The Square, Gillingham, Dorset.**

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley St., W.1

Grosvenor 2861. Telegrams "Cornishmen, London"

NORTH DEVON. 130 ACRES. Picturesque house dating from XVIIIth century. 2 reception, bathroom, 4 bedrooms. Bathing pool. Modern farm buildings. Productive stock and dairy farm. **£4,150.** Possession Lady Day, 1944.—**TRESIDDER AND CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1.** (21,494)

COTSWOLDS. 50 ACRES. 1/2 mile village and station. **CHARMING STONE RESIDENCE** with mullioned windows. Carriage drive. Hall, 3 reception, 3 bathrooms, 11 bed and dressing rooms (some h. & c.). Electric light, central heating, telephone, free water supply. Garages, 6 loose boxes. Lodge, man's room. Attractive gardens, kitchen garden, rich pastures (let). Would sell house with less land. Inspected and recommended.—**TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1.** (12,480)

SUSSEX-HANTS BORDERS. 8 1/2 ACRES. 1/2 mile station. **PICTURESQUE XVIIIth-CENTURY HOUSE**, modernised and in good order. Lounge, 24 ft. by 15 ft.; dining room, 23 ft. by 12 ft. 6 ins.; billiard room, 24 ft. by 20 ft.; cloakroom, bathroom, 5-6 bedrooms (3 fitted h. & c.). Main electricity and water, telephone. Garage for 2. Well-stocked gardens, lawns, orchard, and **6 ACRES** paddock. **QUICK SALE DESIRED.**—**TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley St., W.1.** (20,940)

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BRIGHTON:
 A. KILVINGTON, F.A.L.P.A.

By direction of the Executor of the Will, Dr. R. S. FREELAND, deceased.

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On the main Southern Railway to Waterloo and Bournemouth, 18 miles from Bournemouth.

**THE CHARMING FREEHOLD
 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

**HARTING,
 BROADLANDS,
 BROCKENHURST**

comprising the MODERATE SIZED
 RESIDENCE, containing 6 bedrooms,
 bathroom, 2 reception rooms, domestic
 offices.

Excellent stabling. All services available.
 Delightful gardens.

ALSO TWO PASTURE FIELDS,
 BUILDING SITE, 4 OLD-WORLD
 COTTAGES



The whole extending to an area of just over
13 ACRES

VACANT POSSESSION OF THE
 RESIDENCE, STABLES, GARDENS,
 AND OTHER PROPERTIES ON HAND
 ON COMPLETION OF THE PURCHASE

To be offered for SALE BY AUCTION
 in 7 lots at the RESIDENCE on
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1943,
 at 3 o'clock (unless previously sold
 privately).

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 Ringwood and Fordingbridge, Hants.
 Auctioneers: Messrs. FOX & SOSS,
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THE FURNISHINGS OF THE RESI-
 DENCE WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION
 UPON THE PREMISES ON THURSDAY
 DECEMBER 9th, 1943.

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BOURNEMOUTH, SOUTHAMPTON, BRIGHTON

have large numbers of applications for country properties of
 all descriptions, particularly in the NEW FOREST AREA and
 in all districts of HAMPSHIRE, WILTSHIRE, SOMERSET,
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OWNERS or their SOLICITORS are invited to communicate with the Firm at their
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SOUTHAMPTON OUTSKIRTS

VERY PROFITABLE PARTLY DEVELOPED BUILDING
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READY FOR IMMEDIATE POST-WAR ACTIVITY.

FREEHOLD

Main drainage, water, gas and electricity. Level. Some roads made and sewered.
 Large number of Houses already built and sold.

ABOUT 263 PLOTS, PLUS VALUABLE SHOP SITES, AND
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PRICE £21,000 FOR THE WHOLE

USUAL PRE-WAR SELLING VALUE ABOUT £120 PER SITE.
 GENUINE BARGAIN.

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 COLLECTIONS IN EITHER OF THOSE DISTRICTS OR
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THEY HAVE ONE OF THE LARGEST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DEPART-
 MENTS IN THE PROVINCES, AND THEY ACT FOR MANY WELL-KNOWN
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DEVONSHIRE

On the outskirts of a Town with a good main road running through the property.

A HIGH-CLASS FARMING ESTATE

OF ABOUT
305 ACRES

HAVING A VALUABLE POTENTIAL ASSET FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A
 FIRST-CLASS BUILDING ESTATE

Good house and outbuildings. 2 excellent modern cottages.

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Close to Meyrick Park Golf Links and centre of the town.

**A DISTINCTIVE
 LABOUR - SAVING
 SMALL RESIDENCE**

DESIGNED BY AN
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and containing

3 BEDROOMS (h. & c. basins),

2 BATHROOMS

2 RECEPTION ROOMS (WITH
 BEAMED CEILINGS AND BRICK
 FIREPLACES)



SUN PARLOUR,

KITCHEN WITH SENTRY AND
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BRICK GARAGE.

ALL MAIN SERVICES

TASTEFULLY LAID OUT GARDEN

PRICE £2,85
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4 miles north-west of Chester. Half an hour by train from Liverpool.

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ABOUT 1,200 ACRES OF RICH FERTILE LAND IN THE WIRRAL PENINSULA

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13 FARMS HAVING MODERNISED BUILDINGS LAID OUT FOR ACCREDITED MILK PRODUCTION, AND WITH SUPERIOR HOMESTEADS, ALL WITH MAIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER, AND MANY HAVE BATHROOMS.

ALSO

SMALL HOLDINGS, COTTAGES AND POTENTIAL BUILDING LAND ADJOINING OR CLOSE TO CAPENHURST STATION, AND TWO FREEHOLD GROUND RENTS.

THE WHOLE LET TO ESTABLISHED TENANTS AT OLD RENTALS FAR BELOW PRESENT VALUE, AMOUNTING TO
£2,780 PER ANNUM

To be OFFERED for SALE by AUCTION in NUMEROUS LOTS (unless sold privately)
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FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION

3½ miles west of Romsey in a Delightful Position with due South aspect.

CHARMING QUEEN ANNE FARMHOUSE

Modernised, with electric light and new water supply. 6 principal bedrooms, 2 servants' bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms.

PARTIAL CENTRAL HEATING.

GARAGE FOR 2 CARS.



PRETTY FLOWER GARDEN,
KITCHEN GARDEN,
AND PARKLIKE LAND.

IN ALL ABOUT
13 ACRES

PRICE £6,500

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AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

SHOWING LARGE RETURN

WITHIN 6 MILES OF COUNTY TOWN

FOR SALE

14 FARMS AND HOLDINGS AND VILLAGE LANDS EXTENDING TO
1,393 ACRES

AND YIELDING A RENTAL OF

£922 PER ANNUM

AS LITTLE AS **£7 10s. PER ACRE** WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR AN IMMEDIATE SALE.

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VERY PRIVATELY IN THE MARKET FOR INVESTMENT

PART OF WELL-KNOWN SPORTING AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

IN FERTILE PART OF SCOTLAND. CLOSE TO MARKET TOWN.

2,177 ACRES

20 FARMS

SMALL HOLDINGS AND TACKDUTIES.

Rental **£1,820 per annum.**

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WILL BE SOLD TO SHOW **4½% RETURN.**

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

HASLEMERE, SURREY
PICTURESQUE SURREY FARM-
HOUSE-STYLE RESIDENCE

Very soundly constructed (1926) for Present Owner. About 600ft. above sea level, with uninterrupted views for 20 miles. In a beautiful setting, with complete privacy, yet only six minutes' walk from this lovely old-world town, shops, etc. Station (main line) about ½ a mile. Also on bus route.

4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms. Excellent offices, loggia, garden room, etc. Companies' services. Beautiful garden of 1 ACRE.

WHICH WILL BE OFFERED BY PUBLIC AUCTION WITH VACANT POSSESSION, UNLESS SOLD PREVIOUSLY BY PRIVATE TREATY.

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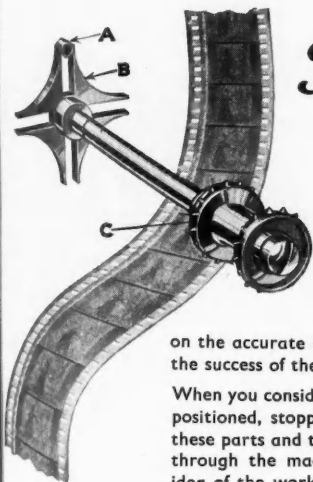
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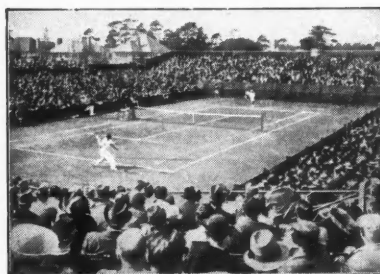


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for POST-WAR
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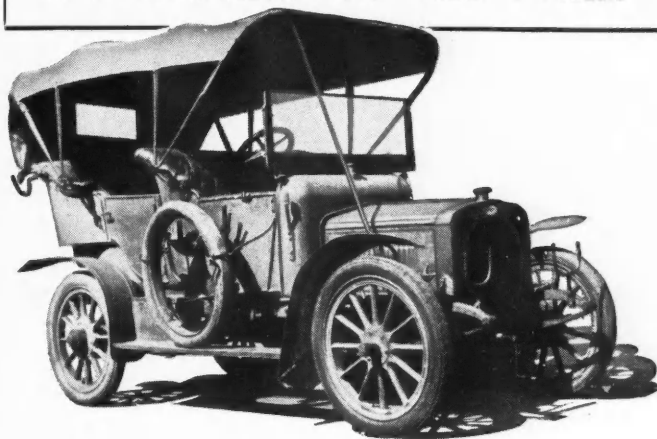
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCIV. No. 2444

NOVEMBER 19, 1943



Mannell

MRS. EWAN BUTLER

Mrs. Butler is a daughter of Mr. Eric Byron, of Overton House, near Marlborough, and sister of the late Mr. Robert Byron; her husband, Major Ewan Butler, is a son of Mr. Harold Butler, representative in New York of the Minister of Information, and is Assistant Military Attaché at Stockholm.

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PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES

UNLESS quality is an obtainable object, as well as cheapness, much of the argument in favour of mass production becomes specious." So concludes a wise memorandum on the wider aspects of pre-fabrication applied to houses, prepared by the Royal Institute of British Architects at the Ministry of Health's request and published in the R.I.B.A. Journal of October. The issue is of far-reaching importance. One school of thought maintains that even the maintenance, let alone the raising, of the British standard of life after the veiled inflation of war-time is wishful thinking; and that, unless four or five million decently equipped but frankly impermanently built houses are mass-produced rapidly and cheaply, "social tranquillity" will be jeopardised—to quote Lord Bledisloe's case in the *Daily Telegraph* for houses of plywood coated with concrete. The R.I.B.A. recognises the difficulties presented by the shortage of time, housing, labour, and materials, but warns the Government against therefore sanctioning "an official form of jerry-building." The fallacy of the argument that a house can be mass-produced like a car is that the car is worn out in 20 years. A hire-purchase house would leave the owner faced anew with the cost of replacement. A short-life building contains so much of a permanent character that it is uneconomic; therefore, says the R.I.B.A., a long-term view must be taken.

In the long view the danger is real that, should materials and methods of proved value be temporarily superseded by substitutes, it may be difficult ever to recover traditional standards. Scenery and amenities would be permanently vitiated, skilled craft and labour be prejudiced by the creation of an unskilled army of spanner-wielders, while a concentration on cheap initial outlay would lead to maintenance costs greater, in the long run, than the saving. Even in the short view, temporary buildings have a way of becoming permanent. The R.I.B.A.'s advice is that the Government should foster to the utmost the building industry and the training of new entrants, to the extent even of diverting some of the energy directed to producing substitutes to the increased manufacture of traditional materials. But the memorandum approves, with some reservations, the application of pre-fabrication, standardisation, and mass-production, where they have been applied successfully already, to building units such as windows and doors, ironmongery and plumbing apparatus.

With all due respect to the high sense of responsibility inspiring this memorandum, many will question its tactics of static defence of the

standards and amenities we all hope to preserve. On another page of this issue Professor Richardson visualises timber houses in the pleasing Anglo-American tradition, mass-produced in Canada while their foundations and brick chimneys and lining-walls are pushed ahead *in situ* to receive them, and standardised plumbing and heating units are mass-produced to equip them. Weatherboarding is a naturalised building tradition here, and widely favoured in the States. If undertaken on these lines the ideals of amenity, speed, and economy could, it is believed, be served, without the consequences feared by the R.I.B.A.; and indeed combining their criteria of quality and cheapness.

THE LITTLE THINGS

AS the shy squirrel gathers in his store
And hides it safe away
Against the time when the sun shines no more
And winter skies are grey.
So do I garner every passing day
The happy things that speed me on my way.

The little things!
Songbirds that greet the dawn,
The silver-misted lawn.
The sweetness of the heavy-headed rose
At evening's close.
The nightly new-born peace
When in a golden cup
The sun sinks down, and the day's labours cease.
Lupins as blue as any summer sky,
Wind with the tang of the far-distant sea.
The curlew's rippling, melancholy cry,
And the white clouds' canopy.
Pine woods with strawberry scent beneath the sun,
And heather surging in a purple foam.
And great logs crackling when the night is come
On open hearths. Epitome of home.
Such are the little things I keep to bless
Some future day; my store of happiness.

JOAN VERNEY.

STRENGTHENING PARISH COUNCILS

THE appointment of a Minister of Reconstruction will re-orientate the whole future of the home front, provided that he is equipped with adequate powers. That it will be, may be assumed from the selection of Lord Woolton as admirable a choice for his humane, as for his technical qualifications, and no less for his essentially executive reputation. Meanwhile it should be noted that the reassurance offered by Mr. W. S. Morrison to planning authorities that their boundaries and functions will not be altered during the coming period of reconstruction does not apply to the parish. Although the Local Government Act of 1933 made certain provisions for the better fitting of parish councils into the modern administration of rural areas and for the maintenance of their democratic character, things are, in many parishes, still allowed to go on in the old haphazard way. The reforms most needed are the creation of a parish council—and the abolition of the parish meeting—as the executive unit of local government in every parish unit. Elections to councils should be conducted by ballot and their numbers might well be increased from 15 (as at present) to 20. Another necessary reform arises from the fact that the legal provisions relating to parish affairs are scattered over a baffling variety of statutes—such as the Lighting and Watching Act of 1833 and the Burial Acts from 1852 to 1906—and are badly in need of codification. Given a higher standard of personnel and a simpler law to administer, parish councils may then well ask for a more stable system of finance and for more opportunities of effective co-operation in promoting the welfare and assisting the development of the countryside. Already a Central Parish Councils Committee exists and is busy working out and co-ordinating its plans.

UNDER THE PLOUGH

THE need for a specially judicial temper, as well as for unlimited enthusiasm, in war agricultural executive committees is suggested by the revival of reasoned complaints—such as that of Sir O. G. S. Croft in *The Times*

—about the waste involved in ploughing up "fine permanent pastures which have taken half a century to establish." Earlier in the war, before the Government's policy was either clear or established, similar warnings were uttered. But they were stilled when the basis of the ploughing campaign was explained and the Government set to work, through the executive committees and the farmers, to make the best use of our modern knowledge of cultivations, fertilisers and seeds to substitute crops under a system of "alternate husbandry" over large areas which had formerly been given up to permanent grass. The policy as a whole has been abundantly justified, if only by the production of a million tons more bread corn this year than last. Most of the old pastures thus replaced certainly do not come under the "irretrievable" category, but there may well be individual cases where an excessive zeal for ploughing has led to the sacrifice of first-class permanent pasture without corresponding benefit to the balance-sheet of production. In his recent Introduction to Elliot's *Cotton Park Farming System* Sir George Stapledon had something to say of the benefits to animal health and to fertility to be had from the use of plants outside the range of his present reseeded practice but which are undoubtedly well established in the older pastures of the country. In his article on *The Improvement of Lowland Pastures* on another page Dr. G. H. Bates wholeheartedly supports the re-farming revolution and we should be the last to suggest that it is not in every way justified. But Sir George Stapledon himself, we believe, would not maintain that the new leys contained all that could be prescribed from the point of view of animal health and nutrition, and that the older pastures contained no elements of their own which might not with advantage be introduced into their successors.

TOO MUCH ZEAL

EVEN the most casual of us can never cease to be surprised at the astounding carelessness with which rare and sometimes really precious books are thrown away. The present time is producing a whole crop of valuable books that have been seized from the very jaws of salvage. First editions of Dickens are apparently quite common: a black-letter Breeches Bible of 1599 in its original binding is another find, and yet another is a Hebrew Bible of 1639. Perhaps most remarkable of all is a manuscript of the Institutes of Justinian which turned up after having, as we are told, disappeared some time ago from the Bodleian Library. This has a sinister ring; it would really seem as if some absent-minded M.A., doubtless by inadvertence, might have stolen it. Zeal for salvage is wholly admirable, but in these cases it has gone too far. It would be interesting to know the motives of those who threw such books away. The answer in most cases is probably that of Dr. Johnson on a well-known occasion, "Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance." The owners did not know that the books were of any worth, and sometimes probably did not even know that they possessed them at all.

PYJAMAS AND THE MAN

THE art of Latin quotation in the House of Commons is not what it was. Too many Members have perhaps a slight inferiority complex on the subject. Yet no one could grudge Mr. Oliver Lyttelton his pleasant little adaptation of the other day, when he hoped that the motto of the Ministry of Production would never be "Cedant arma pyjamae." Debate raged hotly over the question of issuing pyjamas to the troops and as to whether they were an essential weapon of war. No one put in a word for the old-fashioned nightgown which is even a mildly ridiculous sound in our ears as witness the stage direction in *Julius Caesar* "Thunder and lightning. Enter Caesar in his nightgown." Yet here and there may be found some "hoary-headed swain" who wears a nightgown and is proud of it, and there is something to be said in its favour, though scarcely in its context.



A. H. Robinson

THE ROAD BESIDE THE LOCH: LOCH-NAN-UAMH, INVERNESS-SHIRE

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

IN these times, when so few people will expend their precious cartridges on that very aloof and comparatively shot-proof bird, the wood-pigeon, the evening's flight shooting is usually disappointing. Although the Scandinavian migrants have so far not arrived—at least so far as the southern part of the country is concerned—there are quite a number of our indigenous birds, but it is my experience that after the first rush, when a hundred or so pigeons come swinging in over the Scotch firs to their roosting sites to be met with a discharge from both barrels, there is almost a complete blank for the rest of the short evening. The pigeon intelligence branch is apparently most efficient. After that only an odd reconnoitring patrol comes one's way, but in the days when, at this time of the year, every Friday evening was recognised as pigeon evening, one had big flights coming in from neighbouring woods, occupied by other guns, until the light failed.

My bag on one particular evening recently was two pigeons only, obviously the Good Pigeon and the Wicked Pigeon, for the crop of the first contained 12 acorns and nothing else, while that of the second was so tightly packed with the best quality seed wheat that one more grain would have burst it!

One is never dull, however, even if the birds are not fighting, for there is so much to see during the evening's wait, and among the scarcer birds which visited my hide in the clump of aged Scotch firs on the big heath were a hobby hawk, followed shortly afterwards by a peregrine. Seeing these two falcons almost together, I was struck by their similarity in colouring. Incidentally I nearly shot—or shot at—a peregrine as he appeared suddenly over the fir in front in a swooping dive, with his wings crooked in exactly the manner adopted by the pigeon when he has finally made up his mind to roost.

* * *

THE wood-pigeons turned up as usual for, such other parts of England may complain that they are deficient in the long-tailed variety, there is no shortage of these

attractive small birds in this corner, and I have seen flights of them every time I have gone out to shoot this year. There is one point about these big flocks of long-tailed tits which I notice always, and that is that with them, and apparently trying to be members of a select and most exclusive gathering, are always several great and blue tits; but the long-taileds never take the slightest notice of them. I have no idea what the explanation of this is, unless it is that the long-taileds appear to be so extremely happy and busy, apparently obtaining an incredible amount of food, that the other varieties feel they would like to join the party. On the other hand the explanation may be that the commoner types are snobs, and like to be seen in the company of the aristocrats of their race.

If any readers should feel sceptical about such a thing as snobbishness in the bird world I can assure them it exists. I once imported to Egypt a dozen pedigree Rhode Island Red pullets, complete with an unrelated cock, and, judging from the bill I received from the shipping company, I imagine they must have been treated with the respect due to their breeding, being accommodated during the voyage in a state cabin with seats at the captain's table.

On arrival they were put in a pen adjoining that occupied by a number of indigenous and common mix-breeds, and these vulgar birds were most excited over the advent of the newcomers, lining up along the wire and watching every movement of the magnificent Rhodes—but the exclusive Rhodes never saw them. They pecked languidly and affectedly in the sandy soil, but never at any time did they notice that there were some forty members of their race in the next pen who would have liked very much to make their acquaintance.

IN a letter in the Correspondence columns of October 22, *Materials for Cottages*, the writer applies three adjectives to thatch as a roofing material: "beautiful, economical and heat-insulating." I agree with him entirely as to the first and last, but am at issue with him over "economical." I do not think, considering the difficulty of obtaining expert thatchers and the high price charged for suitable straw, that the original cost of constructing good thatch is much less than that of tiles; while if Norfolk reeds are used the expense is undoubtedly greater.

I had a pair of six-roomed cottages thatched in 1921 by the best craftsman in West Hampshire, and 17 years later they had to be re-roofed at a cost of just under £60. I imagine that the lifetime of a thatched roof depends to some extent on the climate of the district, and no doubt rot sets in more quickly in damp areas. In my particular case there was considerable damage done by starlings and sparrows, much of it apparently wanton, and the many holes they made let in the wind and rain, thus starting the general disintegration. This can be prevented if the roof is covered with small-mesh wire netting, firmly fastened under the eaves, round the chimneys and elsewhere, but this netting costs in the neighbourhood of £15 for a pair of cottages, and I presume its life is not much more than 17 years.

A serious point that the owner of a thatched house has to consider to-day is whether there will be any thatchers at all in 20 years' time. All the experts in this area—house-thatchers as opposed to rick-thatchers—are very well on in years and there appears to be no young entry coming along to take their places. Even before this war started one had to queue up on a waiting list for the thatcher, and book him from nine months to a year ahead. As one has to queue up on a waiting list for any form of simple service to-day I cannot envisage what is the formula to obtain a thatcher now.

There is nothing so typically English and beautiful as an old village of cottages roofed with thatch, and in fact I am all in favour of them, provided they are owned by other people.

THE RURAL HOUSING PROBLEM

THE POSSIBILITIES OF PRE-FABRICATED DOMINION TIMBER

By A. E. RICHARDSON

The primary needs of post-war housing are speed of erection, unlimited sources of material and pleasing design. Professor A. E. Richardson, A.R.A., shows how these can be met by pre-fabrication in Canada to specifications prepared in this country. Concrete foundations and brick chimneys could be built in advance and the houses could be brick lined. The preparation of five types of house would enable 30 variations by the inter-change of standard parts.

FACED as we are with the necessity to provide 4,000,000 houses directly peace is restored, the question arises how can this be accomplished? It is obvious that the solution cannot be left to methods which prior to the war distributed cheap buildings of uniform ugliness throughout the kingdom. We have in England a fine building tradition, and, not the least, artificers ready to extend its excellence in various directions. The issue of the moment, however, concerns the right procedure necessary to produce many thousand homes in the shortest time.

There also remain to be met the twin requirements, which are not inseparable, of beauty and economy. The Swedes, who rightly pride themselves upon having a fine building vernacular, owe much to the national timber industry which makes it possible for them to build cheaply without loss of character. And it is not the least of Scandinavian accomplishments to organise development freed from litter. Thus, modern housing on the great scale calls for some re-orientation both of viewpoint and of building by-laws, which in England, to say the least, are obstructive.

The peculiar study of the Ministries concerned with housing the people seems to be not only to provide machinery for securing direct results, but to ensure that certain tendencies should be refined and corrected. The vastness of the task, as well as the modesty of the architectural profession, may well cause many to desist from an enterprise which seems to be beyond the capacity of private guidance.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

It is said that a Wren would be required to initiate such labour. Of one thing the public may be sure, if such a leader were to be found there would not be lacking scores of practitioners to follow. Never at any time in history has such an opportunity for national betterment been presented, nor similar occasion to advance architecture to a high level. For it will be conceded that England is worthy of possessing houses which should equal if not excel those of countries less fortunately placed. It would be pitiful that a subject so inspiring should not



WEATHERBOARDED COTTAGES ON THE L.C.C. WATLING ESTATE

have the support of the finest artists. The primary consideration, therefore, is method, and in this regard what better lessons can be found than those offered by the Dominions, and in particular Canada, which, to place its timber industry alone in due prominence, stands foremost?

THE CASE FOR TIMBER

At this time the whole nation anticipates that something will be done without delay to alleviate the shortage of houses. There can be no burking the issue, or ignoring the fact that the responsibility might be eased if a bold course were to be taken. The project in this case is to investigate the possibility of obtaining thousands of ready-made houses which could be erected by unskilled labour in the minimum of time. Furthermore these houses could be so distributed in the country districts as almost to escape attention.

Previously the great mass of house-building was left to building speculators who, without the intervention of architects, assembled catalogue goods. The results are too familiar to be described. The evidences are shameful and beneath contempt. There is little that can be taken as a pattern for improvement, such are the soul-depressing scrawls scattered at random from Berwick-on-Tweed to Penzance. Many points can be advanced in favour of standardis-

ing several types of houses which should suit the different regions of this country.

(1) There is the need to set up an Advisory Committee to formulate procedure and to open negotiations for supply.

(2) Of all materials most suited to rapid assembly timber comes easily first.

(3) The vast natural resources of Canada, together with the existing facilities for milling and working the component parts such as framing, sheathing, roof trusses, doors and windows, suggests this Dominion as the source of supply.

(4) Plans for several types of houses should be prepared at once and estimates of cost be carefully investigated.

(5) The foundations of the houses, as well as the brickwork for chimney-stacks, could be finished in readiness for the erection of the external framing.

(6) The preparations for local planning now being made throughout the country might consider the open formation system for lay-outs.

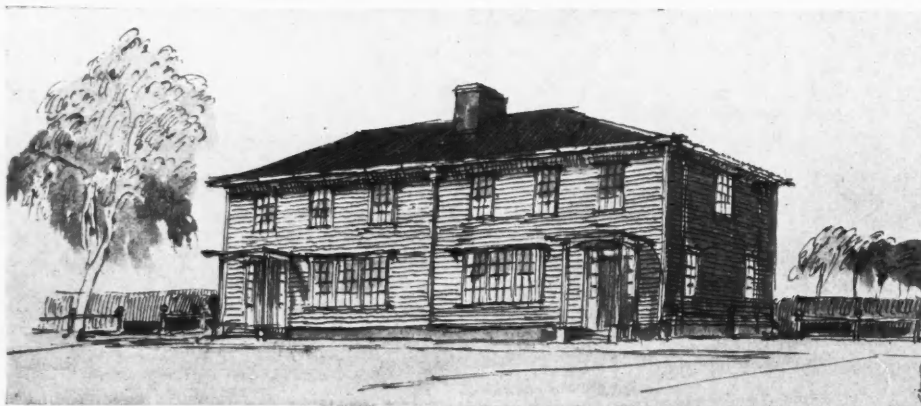
(7) Variety in the form of roofs and differences of pitch would admit of the use of slates or tiles for covering. At the same time regional considerations would be observed.

The proposal, therefore, is to provide a large number of houses suited to rural districts, which could either be erected as single units or grouped in ordered formation on open sites. The objective is to secure the houses at a reasonable cost and to ensure rapidity of erection.

The sketches illustrating this article show possible types of such pre-fabricated houses, of which many variations are possible by the interchange of standard parts. Five basic designs for example would yield 31 variations. It is unnecessary at this stage to include the corresponding house plans, but indications are given of possible lay-out combinations.

PRODUCTION IN BULK

Now an attempt will be made to outline the scheme in detail. It can be assumed that suitable plans, elevations and sections for these houses will be forthcoming, and that the designs will be such as to satisfy public opinion. Also that the types chosen will admit of planning variations. It can also be taken for granted that local authorities will be directed to confer with planning experts appointed by the appropriate



TYPE A. A PAIR OF COTTAGES THE WALLS, WINDOWS AND DOORS OF WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF PRE-FABRICATION



TYPE B. DOUBLE COTTAGE WITH GAMBREL ROOF



TYPE C. GROUP OF FOUR GAMBREL-ROOFED COTTAGES



TYPE D. LONG AND LOW, WITH FLAT-PITCHED ROOF

Ministry. The next stage concerns the production, in bulk, of framing, sheathing, roof trusses, doors and windows of the several types at the source of supply.

In order of precedence, the framing of a timber structure comes first, and this could be either "brace framed" or "combination framed." The latter is perhaps the better because of its adaptability for window and door openings. The type of roof truss will depend on the shape, size and arrangement of each of the several plans chosen for mass production. To some extent the pitch of roofs would be regulated by local tradition.

For example, in the north the roofs would be steeper than in the south, or conversely where slates could be obtained more conveniently than tiles for covering. The pitch in the former case can never be less than 30°. The actual forms of the roofs might allow of variation between the V, the gambrel, or the hipped type. The external framing would be sheathed with clap-boards rebated 4½ ins. to the weather. The choice of Canadian timber includes cedar, larch, Douglas fir, redwood, cypress, sap, pine, spruce, with hard pine for sills and heads. Not only is it possible to prepare all the scantlings at the source of supply, but the actual framing could be prepared for shipment.

FIRE-PROOFING

There now remain the questions of fire-proofing and vermin stops. The suggestion is that the external framing should be lined internally with inexpensive brickwork, 4½ ins. thick, or light concrete blocks, 3 ins. thick. All windows would be either casement or double hung sashes; the doors ledged and braced. The gutters would be of wood as well as the down pipes. The foundations would consist of a waterproof concrete raft having a dwarf concrete wall to receive the timber sills. The chimney-stacks would be internal and built of brickwork. Externally the weatherboarding would be creosoted, painted.

It is well known that timber buildings are regarded as being more liable to destruction by fire than those built of brick or stone. To meet this possible danger it is proposed to insulate the framing by the adoption of brick or concrete nogging internally. Precautions would also be taken to insulate all chimney-stacks. To-day it is common practice to employ

solid floors for the ground-floor rooms, adverting to wooden joists and boarding for the bedrooms. The scheme in view does not proscribe the use of fire-proof plastering in addition to the brick linings. No doubt other efficient methods of insulating the timber framework will be forthcoming. Judging from long experience in England of similar structures, which date from the seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries, the risk of destruction by fire is no greater than that attending other small properties.

Another criticism might be adduced against the framed houses. Why go to all the trouble of bricking the walls internally in order to secure a pleasant-looking elevation? Surely it would be just as economical to build entirely of brick? The answer to both queries is speed of manufacture and erection. For instance, the framing does not call for skilled labour for bolting in position, while the forming of the lining admits of the use of Fletton bricks laid roughly in lime mortar. The main object therefore is speed in building, and, to add to this, it is important that these houses should be warm to live in.

TIME AND LABOUR FACTORS

The advantages of this form of construction are manifold. Here are a few of the favourable points:

Speed of production and delivery in bulk will reduce cost.

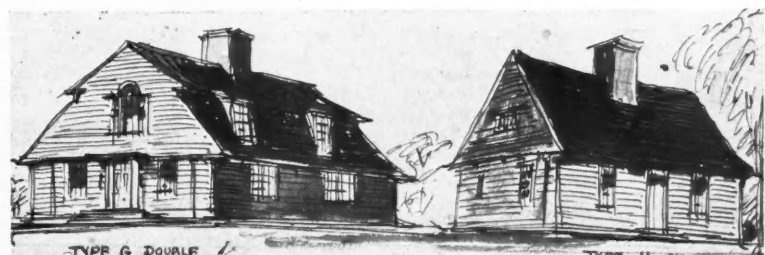
Ingenious milling will admit of standardisation, on the great scale,



TYPE E. A DESIGN FOR A DOUBLE OR SINGLE COTTAGE



TYPE F. WITH SEMI-MANSARD ROOF



TYPE G. DOUBLE. TYPE H. SINGLE



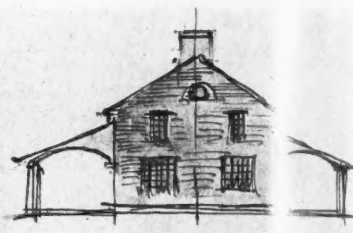
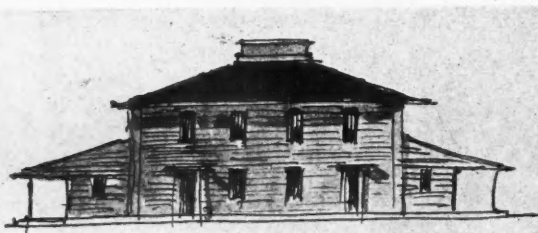
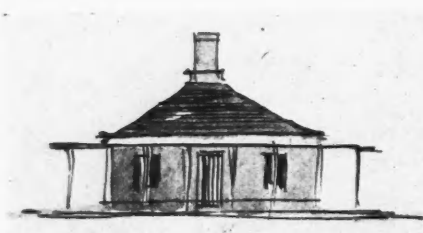
TYPE I. DOUBLE COTTAGE WITH HIPPED MANSARD ROOF



TYPE J. DOUBLE COTTAGE, GAMBREL ROOF



TYPE N. DOUBLE COTTAGE WITH SWEEPING RIDGE ROOF



TYPE L. SINGLE. (Centre) TYPE K. DOUBLE, FLAT-PITCHED ROOF. (Right) TYPE M. DOUBLE, WITH VERANDAHS

of minor features, namely doors, windows, staircases, etc.

Reasonable proportion and satisfactory detail can be determined at the outset, as well as avoidance of monotony of type.

Pending the arrival of the framing from Canada, the lay-out of groups of houses could proceed, including the formation of the chimney-stacks.

Perhaps—and this is even more satisfactory—the erection of the framing in position, including bolting up, could be carried out by unskilled labour.

It is well known that almost every building operation demands a proportion of skilled craftsmen, such as carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers and smiths to ensure decent finishing. The weatherboarded house would be no exception. There are also other possible objections, none of which is serious, the principal one being maintenance of the external woodwork. Judging from the success of the timber-framed houses built by the London County Council on the Watling Estate, these objections are slight when compared with the advantages of rapid construction.

CONTROVERSIAL POINTS

The controversial points are: Who will prepare the designs? What authority will organise the supply? Lastly, who will be responsible for the orderly arrangement of such settlements or groups? For the first, the Ministry of Works is the competent authority. The second calls for a very close study of the fiscal aspect of the problem. Against the supply of timber commodities could be set the exchange of machinery or other forms of merchandise required by the Dominion in question. As for the third point, this is largely a matter for each local authority, assisted by professional advice and the co-operation of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

By this selection of types of small houses in accordance with predetermined plans, a certain regional observance would result. The distribution of 100,000 timber buildings in country districts would go far to ease the present shortage of accommodation. It should be possible to journey from county to county without noticing any great change in the composition of existing villages and small towns.

Although it would be unwise to give exact details of cost without making some

reservations, it is still possible to arrive at some general idea. It is quite clear, to all but the most optimistic, that cottages for agricultural workers which cost £1,000 each are quite out of the question, especially for housing on a wide scale.

But by using standardised timber units such as described, the cost of a cottage on one level, having two bedrooms, a living-room, scullery, bathroom, w.c., etc., should not exceed £450. Larger types on two floors with additional rooms would cost from £575 to £700.

These figures are of course entirely dependent on the numbers of houses erected at the same time. For example, pre-fabrication of the framework, roofs, doors and windows, would tend to lower initial costs. Rapid erection and the employment of unskilled labour would further reduce outlay. All fixtures would be manufactured in bulk and supplied at controlled rates.

Put briefly, the same methods which before the war produced the popular motor car could be put into action for the production of these timber houses. This, of course, is entirely a matter of organisation and of costing worked out very meticulously. In any case it would be a matter of surprise if satisfactory estimates were not forthcoming.

Finally, with the example of the traditional type of weatherboarded structures which abound in the majority of counties, as well as the precedents offered by the Colonial buildings of America, there should ensue a regard for proportion which at present is practically non-existent.

There are of course many alternatives to the above proposals which no doubt have already been explored. There is the pleasant theory that local material should be employed and the equally unpleasant threat of "Utility" building.

But there are few who would not acknowledge that attempting to improve the building vernacular is laudable. The country will benefit by satisfying the needs of people in rural areas, and, in turn, agriculture would benefit the towns. And since the need for any improvement is the best motive for the contrivance of a remedy, it is not surprising to know that many people hold views similar to those put forward in this article.

SKETCH DESIGN FOR TYPICAL DETAIL TREATMENT



SOME NEEDLEWORK CARPETS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

By MARGARET JOURDAIN

THE first half of the eighteenth century was a great period for needlework applied to hangings and carpets; and there are many allusions to the excellent artistry and tenacity of the English needlewoman, who obstinately persisted in thinking her work "a notable piece of good Housewifery because they were made at home, and she had some share in the performance." It was during this half-century that the fine hangings were worked for the Green Velvet Bedroom at Stoke Edington by the five successive wives of Thomas Foley and the panels (now at Wallington Hall) worked by Julia, wife of Sir Walter Calverley, dated from about 1717.

The sum of needlework carpets worked in the eighteenth century has been decimated by time and chance, but surviving examples have the attraction of vivid and durable colouring and good design. There was sometimes a division of labour in this needlework. Mrs. Delany, an ardent needlewoman, speaks in 1750 of working a corner of a friend's carpet. It is difficult to realise that this fine work was often carried out in the evenings, by the light of a single candle. "My candlelight work," Mrs. Delany tells us in 1754, "is finishing a carpet in double cross stitch." Later in the century a visitor staying at Holkham noticed Lady Leicester at work at a "tent-stitch frame every night by one candle (which she sets upon it) and no spectacles. It is a carpet she works in shades, in tent stitch."

Needlework carpets, according to Lady Dorothy Nevill, were much valued by the families to whom they belonged. The fine surviving examples were evidently carefully handled, and perhaps laid down in the best parlour which was never opened but on some particular occasion.

Needlework carpets are small, the larger averaging about fourteen or fifteen feet in length by ten or twelve. Some are worked in cross-stitch, but the finest are carried out in tent-stitch. In one type there is an attractive combination of formality in the setting out and naturalism in the rendering of the flowers and foliage; these carpets are gardens, but they are formal gardens. A customary arrangement is a medallion of flowers in the centre, a border or borders, divided by diaper or trellis patterns, all worked in polychrome wools, in colours skilfully combined. A writer on London trades in the middle of the eighteenth century claims the superiority of Continental needlework to



1.—FLORAL CARPET IN GROS POINT FROM HILLES, 14 FT. BY 11 FT. EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

English work, the English "falling far short of the bold fancy in French and Italian embroidery," but at the present day the delicate realism and finish of English needlework is rated at its proper value.

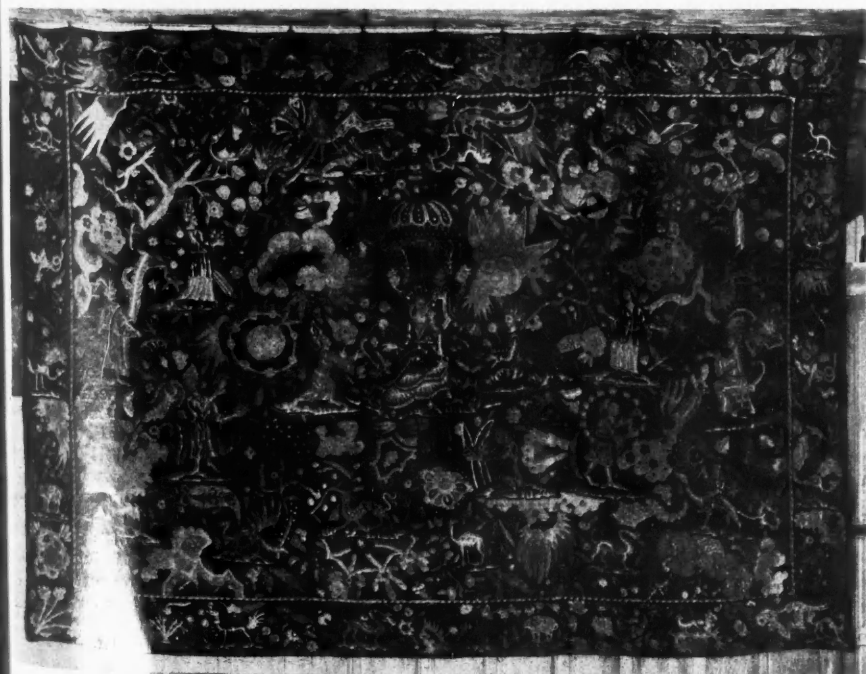
The carpet (Fig. 1) is a fine example of the gay and skilful colour-blending, of blue, yellow, red, green and white on a mulberry ground. The shaped central medallion is worked with a bunch of flowers tied by a knot of ribbon; the broad floral border is interrupted at the corners by shaped reserves. Comparable carpets which have been exhibited in recent years are a specimen in Mrs. Robert Tritton's collection, and one at Hatfield. In Mrs. Tritton's carpet the field centres on a shaped medallion worked with flowers and the surround is worked with

scattered sprays and bouquets of flowers and foliage. Of the two borders, the inner consists of a scrolling pattern of large flowers, such as tulips, carnations and daffodils, while the outer border is of geometrical design. In the fine carpet from Hatfield, the "impression is of a sunny garden of gorgeous colour." In the middle of each long side is a basket of flowers, with trails extending towards each corner, and blending with trailing flowers from bouquets in the centre of the two short sides. The background is a greenish blue; and the design is varied, without either crowding or repetition. A carpet formerly at Glemham Hall has a field worked with a yellow trellis on a blue ground, centring on a bouquet of flowers relieved against a light brown ground. The wide border is worked with a design of leaves and has an exterior border with a cable pattern in red.

These carpets all date from the early years of the eighteenth century, but bear neither date, nor initials nor name of the worker. Later in the century, there occur instances of signed and dated carpets. One (worked by "Mary Holte, Spinster, 1744") is recorded in the *History of the Holtes of Aston* (1854) and is there described as an "exquisite specimen of female skill." Besides its "rich and varied groups and wreaths of large flowers, in every variety of bright colour and tasteful contrast," there was a central medallion containing the Holte arms, crest and motto.

In a second and rarer type of design the influence of Oriental ornament and setting out is paramount. This Chinese taste was introduced during the reign of William and Mary, when hangings and coverlets were worked with travesties of Oriental motifs. The broken and zig-zag lines, and long-necked birds, owed their origin to imported Chinese textiles and lacquer, but in the human figures introduced there is no attempt to follow Chinese costume. Somewhat similar motifs are introduced in the panels of tapestry woven by John Vanderbank at Soho at the same period.

The hanging or carpet from Hilles (Fig. 2) is worked in *gros* and *petit point* with figures carrying offerings of fruit and flowers towards a central figure, seated (in Western dress) under a tasselled canopy, between two attendants. To the right are figures of a musician and a juggler. The Oriental note is stressed by the introduction of camels, but most of the fauna are unknown to the naturalist. The border introduces elephants and odd animals among flowers and vandyked forms.



2.—CARPET OR HANGING IN ORIENTAL STYLE WORKED IN GROS AND PETIT POINT FROM HILLES, 12 FT. 10 INS., BY 9 FT. 5 INS.

"DEEP AS A MENDIP MINE"

THE Mendips are a weird, almost sinister, region to come upon in the pastoral expanse of Somerset. The silhouette of the hills forms a blue distance to some of the loveliest country in England, with the spires of Glastonbury and Wells and Cheddar among the meadows pricking against their sombre slopes. From afar they give scale to the marshes of Sedgemoor and Athelney, and at close quarters open to the fantastic underworld of Wookey Hole and that grim primeval canyon, Cheddar Gorge.

They are immensely old—the Scottish and Welsh mountains are young in comparison to these stumps, all the upper strata of which have been worn away, leaving the limestone plateau with its surface veins of lead and other metals. It is a sparsely inhabited and almost featureless region, this former Royal Forest of Mendip. I had read of its ancient lead mines, one of those sources of mineral wealth to secure which was the real reason for the Roman occupation of Britain. A lead pig has been found stamped with a date corresponding to A.D. 49, showing that, within six years of the Claudian invasion, Mendip lead was being smelted and exported. Long afterwards the Mendip miners fought and died valiantly for King Monmouth in the rhines of Sedgemoor, and it was among them that Hannah More and her sister came to live and labour at the end of the eighteenth century. Then there is that line of Chesterton's that rings in the memory astray from its context, "as deep as a Mendip mine." Where are they, these famous and most ancient of mines, and how deep were they?

I set out to explore Mendip impelled by what I took to be a unique clue to this mystery, in the shape of a great, dark old map, hanging high on a wall in Mells Manor House. It showed a roughly oval area surrounded by churches, containing a number of blobs and intersected by lines, presumably roads, and inscribed:

MINEDEEP FOREST WITH ITS CIRCUMADJACENT VILLAGES
AND LAWS

Four little pictures in the corners appeared to illustrate the process of mining, and a long rigmarole on either side of the map promised a fund of information.

Be it right well known [I read on the left side] That this is enrolled in the Kings Highness Exchequer by the time of King Edward the fourth of a great debate that was in the County of Somerset Between the Lord Bonvills Tenants of Chuton and the Prior of Green Oare. The said Prior complained unto King Edward of great Injuries and wrongs that he had upon Meyndeep being the King's forest the said King Edward commanded my Lord Chocke being Cheife Justice of England to goe down into the Country of Meyndeep and sett a Concord and peace . . . The said Lord Chocke sate upon a place of my Lord of Bathe's called the fordge Whereas he commanded all the



First That if any man whatsoever he be that doth intend to venture his life to be a Workman in the Meyndery occupation he must first of all request Licence of the Lord and the Sover where he shall propose to work or to his Successors

2.—MENDIP MINERS.

William and John Hare of Rowberrow, and James Gully.
Detail from the 17th-century map at Mells Manor



1.—CHEDDAR GORGE. Best-known feature of the Mendips to-day, is not in the metalliferous part of the range

Commoners to appear there, and in especial the four Lords Royall of Meyndeep: THAT IS TO SAY my Lord the Bishop of Bath and Wells my Lord of Glastenbury my Lord Bonville Lord of Chuton and my Lord of Richmond with all the appearance to the number of ten thousand people . . .

After this grandiose preamble it turned out, however, that all the pother was only about common rights for the pasturage of cattle.

But the map itself, the pictures, and the opposite rigmarole were more informative, particularly when I elicited that the map was painted upside down, with the north at the bottom. There are the towns and villages that surround Mendip, represented by their churches, the hamlets by a single house, with Wells Cathedral at the top, Shepton Mallet third to the left, Cheddar third to the right, Winscombe and Churchill in the bight formed by the two horns. The blobs represent the four "minedries" of Priddy, Chewton, Harptree and the "West Minedry"; and the inscription, though bafflingly headed

IRROT: IN SCCOR DNAE REGINAE

(i.e. "Enrolled in the Exchequer of our Lady the Queen") gives the ancient customary laws of the Mendip mines. In this possession of their own code of laws, with special courts to enforce them, the Mendip lead miners stood on a peculiar footing, shared with those of the Peak, the Stanneries in Devon and Cornwall, and the iron-miners of the Forest of Dean. And very curious the laws are, with a fine manliness running through the barely intelligible technicalities. There is not space to give them in full, nor is it necessary. But the First begins sonorously: "That if any man whatsoever he be that doth intend to venter his life to be a Workman in the Meyndery occupation," he must first of all obtain licence of the lord of the soil. Once licensed, he was free to work anywhere in the forest bounds. The third law, the most curious of all, describes the ancient method of staking a claim—by "throwing the hack." The miner is to stand in his "groove" or pit, "to the girdle or waist," and throw the hack each way along the vein of ore visible on the surface. "And then no man (else) may work within the Compasse of his Hack's throw." A special "law hack" weighing 3 lb. 14 oz. was kept for this purpose by the Lead Reeve of the Minery, and on one occasion a considerable commotion was caused by its being stolen. The miner could carry his ore for smelting to whichever he preferred of the four mineries, these paying the regulation tenth of it to the Lord Royal. Further laws governed security of tenure, theft (punishable by confiscation or banishment from the forest, and, for a second offence, at common law) and other misdemeanours. The tenth law, covering accidents, is worth quoting in full:

That if any man by the meanes of this doubtfull and dangerous occupation doe by misfortune take his death as by falling the Earth upon Him by drowning by stifling with fire or otherwise as in times past many have been. The workmen of this occupation

are bound to fetch the Body out of the Earth and bring him to Christian Burial at their own proper Costs and charges although he be threescore fathom under the Earth as heretofore hath been seen.

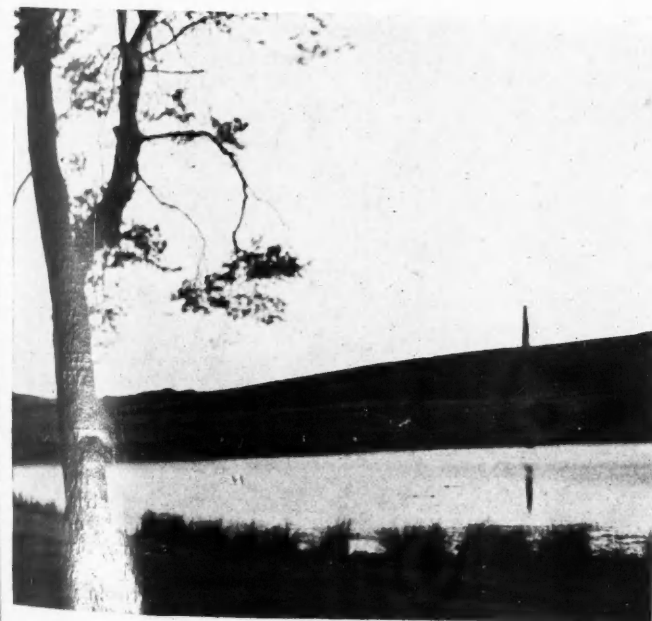
The best description of a Mendip lead mine in working order occurs in a letter from John Locke, the philosopher, written in Plague Year to Robert Boyle, who had apparently commissioned him to make some experiments with the newly invented barometer. Locke was to take a barometer down a mine and register its variations

in one of the deepest gruffs (for so they call their pits) I could find: the deepest I could hear of was about 30 fathoms, but the descent so far from easy, safe, or particular that I was discouraged from venturing on it. They do not, as in some, sink their pits strait down, but as the granies of the rocks give them the easiest passage; neither are they let down by a rope, but taking the rope under their arms, by setting their hands and legs against the sides, clamber up and down.

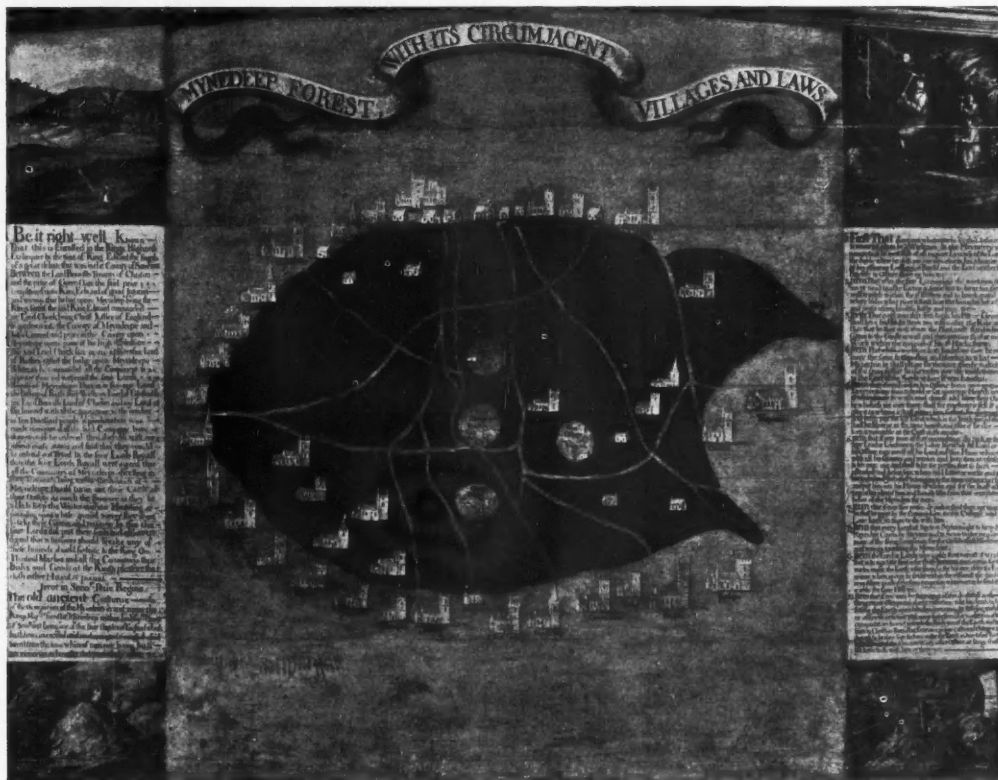
Moreover, "the sight of the engine (i.e. the barometer) and my desire of going down into some of the gruffs, gave them terrible apprehensions; and I could not persuade them but that I had some design."

Here, then, is a definite statement that the deepest Mendip mine, at the period of the industry's greatest prosperity, was 30 fathoms, i.e. 180 ft.; and one of 360 ft. is alleged by the Laws to have been known.

The little pictures on the Mells map depict the whole operation at about the same date as Locke's visit—1665. The first (top left) seems to represent the fire by means of which rock was disintegrated, in days before the use of gunpowder for blasting, previous to working a "gruff"; or it may be the scene at the Minery where ore is being smelted in open hearths. A large crowd is shown drawn up on either side of the fire. Top right (Fig. 2) shows three miners at work down a shaft, wearing round black hats, the smaller men (perhaps 'prentices or boys) armed with a long and short hammer. What are presumably their names are inscribed near them: Wm. Hare, Rowborow; John Hare; James Gully. Bottom left is not very clear but seems to show a man picking over a large heap. Bottom right assembles all the miner's tools round his "pitch," i.e. the mouth of his shaft, over which stands a primitive winch with a drum for hauling up a bucket on a rope. This apparatus was the miner's most important possession, for



THE REMAINS OF PRIDDY MINEDRY



3.—MENDIP MINING MAP AT MELLS MANOR. The Royal Forest is shown girdled by churches; the light "blobs" are the four "Minedries" of Harptree, Chewton, Priddy, and the West

it marked his occupation of a working for a year and a day as from Trinity Sunday, when all "pitches" had to be renewed according to a customary specification.

After the Romans, the Mendip lead mines are next referred to at the end of the twelfth century, when Richard I, to raise money for his Crusade, appears to have licensed the Bishop of Bath and Wells to mine lead in the Royal Forest. In spite of the preamble to the laws, the Abbots of Glastonbury never appear to have had mining rights. "The Prior of Green Oar" referred to is thought to be the Prior of Charterhouse-on-Mendip, to whom the hamlet of Green Oar belonged, and who was a large landowner in the Forest. Though spasmodic undertakings, chiefly for re-smelting old refuse, continued till 1906, the original mining industry came to an end about 1770, primarily owing to the exhaustion of the upper levels and the difficulty of reaching the lower ones because of the danger of flooding.

Mendip lead was comparatively poor in quality and would not have repaid heavy overhead charges.

To these centuries of mining is due those stretches of "gruffy" or "grubby" ground, rough, broken surfaces, which the traveller about Mendip is continually meeting. They are not attractive in any way, these heaps of stony refuse and weed-grown hollows and hillocks. The most extensive tract is in the middle of the range on both sides of the road from Wells to Harptree, between the Hunters' Lodge and the Miners' Arms; another big region of broken ground lies east of Charterhouse; and much of the parishes of Shipham and Rowborow is in a similar condition. Some of it has been

levelled, and probably all the shafts have been filled in. Many underground caverns used to be found by the miners, and one so discovered above West Harptree was accessible by a shaft at the beginning of this century. The sites of the old Mineries are in some cases, as at Priddy (Fig. 4), marked by the ruins of buildings erected in the nineteenth century in connection with extracting metal from the crudely smelted slag left by the old miners.

As to the map at Mells that set me delving into Mendip mines, I have found that several other versions exist. These are listed in *The Mines of Mendip*, the definitive work on the subject by J. W. Gough (1930), from which most of the historical material in this note is derived. The six or seven variants range in size from the Mells map, the largest, 6 ft. by 4 ft. 9½ ins., and 5 ft. by 2 ft. 4 ins. on canvas in Taunton Museum, to a parchment in Wells Museum, and the Waldegrave Estate's map at Chewton. Probably all originally pertained to manors claiming rights of common on Mendip, the one now at Wells being that of the lords of the manor of Ashwick. They ceased to have legal significance after the commons were enclosed 1770-1800. The oldest, that at Wells, is probably of Elizabethan date, the remainder seventeenth century, and that at Mells late in that century. The curious preamble and laws, though purporting to be of Edward IV's reign, notably refer to a Queen, probably Mary, since the earliest version is a MS. in the Public Record Office presumed to be of that date. The preamble had evidently become richly garbled before it was set down, since the Lord Bonville referred to had actually been beheaded after the first Battle of St. Albans, and his estates confiscated, before Edward came to the throne. "Lord Chocke" is unknown to the Peerage or the Bench, though a Richard Chock of Stanton Drew, who was a justice of the Bench and died in 1486, is presumably referred to. Even the Mells map has no connection with the Horner family, though they did acquire Glastonbury land and might so have had interests on Mendip; it was bought about 1845, and may be the one mentioned by Rutter the historian as at Mendip Lodge. But it is in some ways the most interesting of all, especially for the vignettes of Mendip scenes in Stuart times, and has at any rate been the occasion of my unearthing a great deal of interestingly useless information.

CURIUS CROWE.

WILTSHIRE CLOTHIERS' HOUSES

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

ONE of the most fascinating aspects of history as represented by country houses is the search for the reason why they came to be built where and when they were. In most, if not all, cases there was a more practical motive than merely because somebody liked the spot. Until the eighteenth century, indeed, that factor, which is nowadays the principal one, was quite subordinate, especially as regards the homes of the less important among the house-building section of society, who had a narrower field of choice and a more immediate aim than the great nobleman or statesman. In every instance, too, the wealth must have been acquired or created with which to build a house of the structural and architectural substance to have been preserved to present notice. It is probably true to say that the yield from territorial rents alone was never sufficient for the lord of a manor or landowner to build really substantially. Unless he married or made money he must be content with something not much better than a yeoman's house, of the kind which has long since fallen into decay or become a much altered farm-house or group of cottages. Wherever the data exist, it is found that the builder of a substantial house had access to, if he did not himself acquire, wealth surplus to the yield of the land directly connected with the house.

But a great deal more research is needed before we can be at all definite about the financial foundations on which were built so many of the old houses that evoke our interest and admiration to-day. Some valu-

able light on the question is thrown incidentally by Mr. G. D. Ramsay in a recent study of *The Wiltshire Wool Industry in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (Oxford University Press). It forms an interesting sequel to the late Eileen Power's Ford Lectures on *The Wool Trade in Mediaeval England*, which I reviewed and to some extent illustrated here

eighteen months ago. Mr. Ramsay continues the story in a single county, but the one that, with East Anglia, was most closely identified with the production, preparation, and weaving of wool at that period. The story is absorbing, culled by painstaking research from local and State archives, and one, let it be said, that shows a welcome re-orientation of scholarship towards the neglected fields of England's own history, and away from the eroded uplands of Continental politics.

Not that Continental and political influences can be separated from an understanding even of why such towns as Bradford-on-Avon and Frome, Malmesbury and Devizes and Tetbury, are so rich in fine old buildings, or such gracious old houses as Iford, Westwood, Stockton, and Corsham stand as they do. On the contrary, Mr. Ramsay's story shows how sensitively these centres and these clothiers' houses were linked with the fashions fancied far afield in Antwerp, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Lisbon, and Leghorn, and how the political situation created by the Spanish invasion of the Netherlands, or the Thirty Years' War in Europe, reacted on Wiltshire weavers.

The reign of Henry VIII coincided with the golden age of the English broad-cloth industry. In Wiltshire the industrial area was the north-west corner, bounded by Malmesbury, Bradford, Westbury, and Devizes, with a long narrow tail running down the Wylde valley to Salisbury, the cloth city of the fourteenth century. It was not, of course, confined



MALMESBURY ABBEY

William Stumpe, the greatest Wiltshire clothier of Tudor times, used the abbey buildings as his factory



CORSHAM. THE SO-CALLED FLEMISH BUILDINGS

Typical master weavers' and clothiers' houses of the early Tudor epoch

to Wiltshire, but extended over the Cotswolds and into Somerset, while Exeter, Newbury, Surrey, and East Anglia were flourishing centres. But Wiltshire was *par excellence* the source of the white undyed broadcloth which formed the staple English export in Tudor times, and the county's experiences are typical of the industry as a whole.

The central figure in 16th- and 17th-century wool was the rich individual clothier. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries it had been the Merchants of the Staple—an

institution which finally came to an end with the fall of Calais—and the woolmen with whom they dealt, such as Greville of Camden, and Midwinter, Forey, and Bushe of North-leach. Since then England had changed from a primarily wool-growing country to a manufacturing country which even imported wool from abroad. The clothier stamped his cloth with his own maker's mark, known in the cases of some, like Nicolas Passion of Westbury, in Hamburg itself, where the Hansard *Englandsfahrer* trafficked with the German

wholesale importers. By 1500 many clothiers had assumed coats of arms. Wallis and Yerbury of Trowbridge, and Chivers of Calne among them, though the local gentry appear to have resented the inclusion of these upstarts, and some clothiers were formally "disgraced" from their heraldic pretensions on a subsequent visitation of the Heralds.

By far the most remarkable clothier in the Tudor period was William Stumpe of Malmesbury. His father seems to have been a respectable but small weaver, whereas



SOUTH WRAXALL. THE DRAWING-ROOM CHIMNEYPiece DATED 1598

Was the marked Flemish ornateness due to the Long family's commercial relations, as clothiers, with Antwerp?

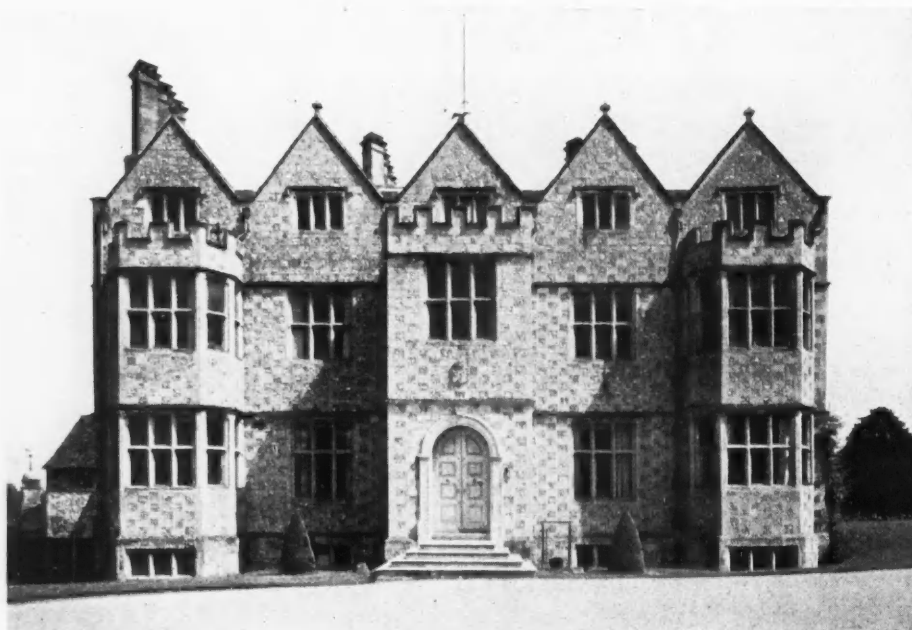


WESTWOOD, NEAR BRADFORD. Thomas Horton, clothier, of Bradford, Iford and Westwood, built the manor house and church tower



STOCKTON HOUSE

As re-built in the late sixteenth century by John Toppe



LAKE HOUSE. The architectural resemblance to Stockton is close. George Duke, its builder, was probably also connected with the wool industry

William's eldest son was knighted and his great-granddaughters married the Earls of Suffolk, Lincoln, and Rutland. Stumpe made his fortune partly by investing his profits in "an immense aggregation of property" in the Cotswold and vale area after the dissolution of the monasteries; and partly by exploiting mass-production by the ingenious method of installing looms in the dissolved monastic buildings. The great abbey of Malmesbury must have contributed a high proportion of the relatively enormous annual output of 3,000 cloths recorded from that town. He made an abortive agreement to turn the empty buildings of Osney Abbey, Oxford, to the same purpose. Stumpe converted part of Malmesbury Abbey into a residence for himself, where it is recorded that he kept a French priest who was a good gardener, and should be gratefully remembered to-day for his safeguarding of the nave of the great church which he gave to the town for parochial use.

Other great clothiers were Alexander Langford of Trowbridge, referred to only by his christian name by Leland, Thomas Yerbury of Trowbridge and Bradford, and Thomas Horton of Bradford, Iford and Westwood. The latter was also a great builder. Leland describes him building "cyvers fair houses" in Trowbridge; he built a school and church-house in that town; and manor houses which survive at Iford and Westwood, in the church of the latter of which he was buried in a chantry of his own building. Other big clothier families were the Botts and Flowers of Devizes, the Barkesdales and Blagdens of Keevil, the Chiverses and Formans of Calne, and the Longs of Steeple Ashton, Whaddon, and South Wraxall. The huge ornate stone chimneypieces that Sir Walter Long inserted into the mediaeval manor house of South Wraxall open the question to what extent the taste of these clothiers was influenced by the foreign centres with which they dealt. Antwerp was both the commercial and artistic centre of north-western Europe in Elizabethan and Jacobean times, whence issued not only innumerable pattern books of the applied arts, but Rubens himself and numerous lesser painters and sculptors. After the Spanish invasion the diversion of the wool trade brought Hamburg and Frankfort also into direct contact with London; but those cities tended to reflect the artistic taste of Antwerp, which thus permeated England.

But the South Wraxall sculpture is exceptional. The general run of clothiers, if they built extensively at all, seem to have been pronouncedly traditional in their taste. Thomas Horton's house at Iford was transformed in 1700 by a later Bradford merchant, one William Chandler, a salter by trade. The late Ralph Peto only discovered a portion of Horton's work by chance. Like Westwood, also altered, but in Jacobean times, Horton's work is typical early Tudor. In the Salisbury region Stockton and Lake, both built by men connected with wool, though unfortunately Mr. Ramsay does not mention them, conform closely to a local Elizabethan type making use of contrasted flint and stone work and no doubt built by the same mason. John Toppe of Stockton is recorded to have been "one of the woollen princes who made great fortunes out of sheep farms on Salisbury Plain" and no doubt had dealings with the Potticarys, noted clothiers in Stockton. Lake House was built by George Duke, who came significantly from South Devon (another cloth centre) and bought it from three brothers named Salter, merchant tailors of London. Records say that "there is no means of knowing where Duke got the means to build the new house"; we may make a

shrewd guess that it was from wool. Corsham is closely associated with the trade. The nucleus of the present Court was built in 1580 by Thomas Smythe, "haberdasher" of London and Collector of Customs of the Port of London, whose father John had been a "yeoman, haberdasher, and clothier" of Corsham. In the High Street are many 16th-century houses undoubtedly inhabited by clothiers, one row in particular being known as the Flemish Buildings. At Bradford similarly there is persistent tradition connecting Flemings with the weaving industry. It is well known, of course, that from time to time Flemish weavers were encouraged to settle in the wool-producing English counties, notably by Edward III, and both at the time of the Spanish invasion of the Netherlands and of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV, England received refugees. But at Corsham research has not brought to light any Flemish families, nor does Mr. Ramsay allude to any perceptible influx in Wiltshire during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Houses, however, much to say of the conditions in which the more lowly operatives lived, described them as "an unorganised mass of sweated labour from which, as the capitalist clothiers established their command of the industry, it was not possible, as it once had been, for a mere spinner or weaver to better himself. A Stumpe or a Thomas Smythe in Tudor times might be the son of a yeoman weaver, but the wealthy clothiers of the seventeenth century had often no ancestral connection with the trade. The Methuens (or Methwines) of Bradford, of whom John was described by Aubrey in Charles II's time "as the greatest clothier of his time," came of Scottish gentry stock. His son became the diplomat who negotiated the famous treaty with Portugal, and it was the latter's young cousin who bought Corsham Court. Another well-known family with clothier origins was founded by Robert Child, clothier of Heddington, whose younger son became Sir Francis the wealthy banker and ancestor of the Earls of Jersey. A house near Corsham that still gives a good idea of a typical 17th-century clothier's home is Benacre Manor, owned successively by the Brounkers (ancestors of Pepys's friend), the Selfes of Melksham, and the Daniells, originally of Castle Combe, all of whom figure in the records of the 17th-century Wiltshire woollen industry.

A point which Mr. Ramsay brings out, and which should be borne in mind when linking houses such as these with individual clothiers, is that the purchase or building of a handsome country house by a clothier is often to be connected, not with the peaks of the industry's prosperity but with its troughs. At such times the shrewd clothier sold out of business and invested his fortune in land. This tends to be borne out by the dates when most of these houses were acquired by clothiers. After 1563 the Wiltshire industry entered a period of decline till about 1600. Then followed a decade of sudden boom, ending in a generation of acute depression, the intricate causes and fluctuations of which Mr. Ramsay examines but which are still not fully explained. The Wiltshire industry was ultimately rescued by the abandonment of the exclusive manufacture of the undyed and undressed cloth, universal since the Middle Ages, for the production of more highly finished cloths, in some of which imported and notably Spanish wools were used, for which Frome had become famous when Defoe made his tour early in the eighteenth century. But that, both chronologically and topographically, is outside the scope of Mr. Ramsay's thesis. He has, however, performed a service to the better understanding of one of England's fairest counties—a service that would be even more valuable had his book been provided with an index with which to follow the innumerable cross-references to the families and personalities that it brings for the first time into perspective.



CORSHAM COURT. The Elizabethan façade built by Thomas Smythe, a local clothier's son who made his fortune



BENACRE MANOR, NEAR CORSHAM. The porch was added by the Selfes, clothiers, of Melksham, in the seventeenth century



(Right) **BRADFORD MANOR, BRADFORD**
Another of Thomas Horton's houses, with the front added in 1710 by William Chandler, salter, of Bradford

A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR AGRICULTURE—IV

THE IMPROVEMENT OF LOWLAND PASTURES

By G. H. BATES,

Agricultural Organiser and Principal of the Staffordshire Farm Institute

[Sir George Stapledon and Mr. W. S. Mansfield have written respectively on the *Problem of the Hill Farm and Future Livestock Policy in relation to the second Four-year Plan for Agricultural*, decreed by Mr. Hudson. In stock farming, Dr. G. H. Bates emphasises that the only key to maintaining, let alone increasing, production is the ley. Succeeding articles will be by Lord Radnor on *Mechanisation and a summing-up of the series* by Sir John Russell.—Ed.]

IT is quite obvious that if we are to maintain and even to increase our present arable acreage and at the same time to build up a larger livestock population, it can be done only by effecting a great improvement in

re-seeding and the use of modern seed mixtures were unknown to the old school of pasture improvers.

So much has been written about ley farming, both in technical and popular literature, that there is no need to discuss its broader aspects and all that they mean to our agriculture. It has captured the imagination of the agricultural community in much the same way that turnip-growing did more than 200 years ago. Critics of direct re-seeding are not to be found among those who have tried it. One must remember, however, that, according to a recent statement, only four in every hundred farmers possess new leys, and these are, as usual, the most progressive of men. There is a solution to our stock-feeding problem in ley farming, but it is no simple one, for it calls for a high degree of skill.

criticised for their total disregard of the economic aspect. Their attitude has, however, been more than justified, and, when this country has become converted to ley farming, our fields and hillsides will provide a monument to research such as no other industry can show.

The modern pasture mixture is simple by comparison with those used in the past. It is based on the fact that perennial ryegrass forms the basis of our best natural pastures and that this species in itself leaves little to be desired. The value on light dry land of heavy seedings of improved types of cocksfoot has been demonstrated, and early prejudices have largely vanished. Timothy is also coming to the fore on heavy clays in exposed positions, where it is extremely persistent. On the other hand, wild white clover has lost favour, for it contributes little to the yield from a short-term ley, except where sheep are an important branch of the farming. It has been learnt that the extra cost of special strains of grasses and a heavier seed rate than was formerly used is well repaid.

FERTILISERS

Some interesting and unexpected facts have come to light regarding manuring and soil fertility in the establishment of new leys. It is not surprising that excellent results should follow the ploughing in of an old turf which has been well slugged and grazed by cake-fed stock; but the same results have been obtained on worn-out arable land and where the former turf was only a thin skin of fescues and lichens. In these cases, only the minimum amount of fertiliser was used and, although this may have been more readily available than if it had been applied to an old turf, the excellence of the new sward led one to believe that there was some explanation other than that of fertility. It would seem as if the new grasses possessed the vigour of youth as compared with those in a permanent pasture which have propagated vegetatively for an indefinite time.

The bulk of the land to be re-seeded stands in need of lime, and there will be little prospect of successful establishment if supplies are not available. On the other hand, it has been found that if the lime is applied to the seed-bed in the form of ground limestone, a dressing much below that indicated by the lime requirement figure will suffice for the first year. Phosphates need only be given as a light dressing so far as establishment is concerned, for the small amount allowed is sufficient to start the seedlings off in life. One rarely finds that potash has much influence upon grasses, but there is evidence that salt is of great value on light dry land.

It must not be inferred that liberal use of fertilisers is not an advantage and essential over a period, but merely that the present shortage should not be any handicap in making a start. It often happens that, although nitrogen may be liberated from the old ploughed-in sod after it has rotted, it may be some months before this takes place; so a light dressing is necessary at seeding time to avoid nitrogen starvation.

CAUSES OF FAILURE

There is one point outstanding from all our experiences: that is the importance of the proper preparation of a seed-bed. There can be no rough-and-ready breaking of the old turf and throwing down a seed mixture. Cultivation is as important for grass and clover seeds as it is for sugar-beet or malting barley.

While economies may be effected in manuring or even in a seed mixture, no necessary time or expense must be spared in making a fine tilth and consolidating the land after sowing. This work is usually of a type which can be carried out by the farmer, but it falls



TURF RECLAIMED FROM WOODLAND, SEEN IN ITS UNREGENERATE CONDITION IN THE BACKGROUND

the productive capacity of our grass land. The only alternative would be arable-stock farming, which involves what is known as the "soiling" system. Despite the fact that land under crops will produce two and a half times as much food for livestock as will permanent pasture, the system has never really passed the experimental stage, because of the extra labour involved. It is, furthermore, not suitable for wet and heavy land, even with modern equipment for farm haulage.

The old methods of pasture improvement by mechanical treatment, liming and the sowing of renovation mixtures have had their day. They were productive of results, though not to be compared with those of direct re-seeding, and only after a period of years.

THE LEY-FARMING REVOLUTION

A short-term policy, or four-year plan, calls for something more revolutionary, and the solution has arrived in the shape of ley farming. In the last few years one has become accustomed to think of pasture improvement only in terms of direct re-seeding, so great has been our change of outlook. Amateur historians are at great pains to point out that there is nothing new in the system, but they are quite wrong, for direct

While making no criticism of the policy of the last few years, there is no doubt that a much higher proportion of our permanent pasture could, by now, have been converted to new ley. This has been prevented by the generally applied rule that if grass land was fit to plough, it was fit to carry a cereal crop. So great has been the demand for corn and potatoes that there has been difficulty in obtaining permission to seed down arable land for longer than one year. If our livestock policy is to progress at the rate desired, there will have to be a change over from permanent pasture to new ley of such a magnitude that, at the end of four years, the proportion of farmers in possession of such grass land will make the present 4 per cent. appear insignificant. The task is a formidable one and beset with difficulties, but it is, after all, not so great as that which we have performed in our arable enterprises since the war began.

EXPERIMENTAL PERIOD

Though our beginnings have been small, they have been rich in experience, and a review of the knowledge we have gained is essential to our future success. The early pioneers of the present re-seeding campaign were severely

at a busy time and there is great scope for contractors who will undertake the whole of the operations from ploughing to the application of fertilisers, and lime and the actual sowing. On the drier side of the country, there is a great need for seed drills to ensure proper burying. Failure to do this is responsible for by far the greatest number of unsuccessful attempts.

Drainage presents some peculiar phenomena, especially on wet peaty land. If this is drained prior to re-seeding, it becomes very dry and the surface soil blows away easily or is badly broken up by cattle. This leads to large bare patches upon which it is impossible to establish stable young turf. It appears to be better to re-seed before the land is drained and while there is moisture present to ensure cohesion. There is a good deal of land near riversides where drainage is impossible, yet it has been found that the land becomes drier after re-seeding because an open turf has been formed in place of the former mat.

It is often possible to effect a great improvement in milk-carrying capacity for at least a few years before waterlogging causes the sward to deteriorate to its original state. Though one may make the best of bad drainage conditions, it must be considered that it is unimportant in ley farming. On the contrary, a new ley reveals the wet patches by a yellowing of the herbage, though they had gone unmarked on the original old turf.

THE TRANSITION STAGE

After reviewing our experiences it can be said that we have, broadly speaking, mastered the technique of grass-land improvement by direct re-seeding. It can also be claimed that the cost of the undertaking has been brought within economic limits. Many people have criticised this statement, pointing out that the outlay may be as much as £12 per acre after deducting grants. Although this may sound formidable, it must be remembered that, spread over a period of four or five years, and with annual maintenance costs added, it does not amount to as much as would be necessary to produce the same amount of food for livestock from arable cropping.

It is usually possible to commence grazing a new ley within six weeks of sowing, but one cannot count on this with certainty. Sometimes it has taken as long as six months. The fact that one will be without grass for six weeks will prevent any farmer from converting all his permanent pasture to ley at one sweep, and it is obvious that only about a quarter of it can be done each year. It is not likely, however, that the rate of increase in our livestock population will outstrip the establishment of our new leys.

Conversion over the space of four years may cause serious inconvenience during the



THE ORIGINAL COARSE TURF IN THE FOREGROUND FROM WHICH THE WELL-GRAZED NEW TURF BEYOND WAS RECLAIMED

transition period, and various suggestions have been made to overcome this difficulty. One has been the sowing of a forage crop or of rye grass in the autumn, to be used while the ley is growing. But this will mean that land being devoted to such a temporary crop cannot be ploughed and put to its proper purpose until well into the following summer, for one cannot count on the ley being ready before July.

The best suggestion is to plough and re-seed about a quarter of one's permanent pasture each year, depending upon the flush on the remainder to tide the stock over. A portion of a field may be done without its having to be protected by fencing, for stock may have access to it from the start without doing any harm.

UTILISING NEW LEYS

It is one thing to establish a new ley and another to manage it in such a manner as to prevent early deterioration and to make the best use of the grass available. One has to cope with an enormous flush of grass in the early summer, and it must on no account be allowed to run to seed.

It is an unfortunate fact that ley-farming

enthusiasts, in laying down rules as to when and how heavily a ley should be grazed, tend to forget that one grows the grass to feed the stock and that the stock is not kept as a means of maintaining the pasture in an ideal condition. It is no easy matter to stock in such a manner that the growth of grass can be kept under control during the summer. Those who carry a heavy head of cattle for this purpose find themselves with insufficient winter keep. One has seen animals turned out in spring, on farms where the permanent pasture has been converted to ley, which are no credit to the system. Home-grown corn may be replacing concentrates purchased from abroad before the war, but the production of this commodity does not keep pace with the growth of grass under the new system.

Grass-drying and silage-making have been put forward as a means of overcoming this difficulty. The former cannot be developed to any extent during war-time or for several years afterwards; and silage-making, though helpful, is not likely to solve the problem, because of the great bulk of material to be handled and fed. To cut a new ley for hay in its first year would be very damaging to the sward, but there is no reason why it should not be done in the second year, or why we should not adopt a system of alternate haying and grazing as is done so successfully in New Zealand.

There has been a tendency in recent years to exaggerate the difficulties of haymaking. In actual fact the tractor and hay sweep have almost revolutionised the process and have certainly made it comparatively easy. Despite all that has been expounded regarding the virtues of silage and straw pulp, they are, in common with most of our home-grown foods, very bulky, and every dairy farmer knows that good hay is the basis of successful winter milk production.

It is realised that there are many difficulties in the way of the grass-land improver. They are sufficiently great to prevent any easy optimism, but they are by no means insuperable. If we could launch a re-seeding campaign on the lines of the ploughing campaign, there is no reason, so far as food supply is concerned, why we should not be able to increase the numbers of our livestock without jeopardising the production of wheat, sugar-beet and potatoes.



OLD TURF BEING PLOUGHED IN

THE DAY By ANTHONY BUXTON

THE last thing one wants on the West Coast of Scotland in August is still fine weather, for that produces a 'midges' carnival; we had not had it, except in small doses of stillness and large doses of midges, but despite a number of spates, the big fish had not quite lived up to our hopes. In the first week sea trout had taken freely, but in the second, full moon week, despite excellent water conditions they had been most disappointing.

In thinking out the reason I remembered the remarks of a French friend of mine, who makes clogs in the winter and is the professional fisherman for the Grand Hotel at Champagnolle in the summer. He is far the best fisherman I ever met, and in his view the moon is the most important element in trout fishing. He used to tell me not to come to his river, the Ain, during full moon as the trout would be feeding all night and would not rise freely during the daytime.

Wherefore I went after the sea trout by moonlight, and grand fun it was. The first night, as the moon rose over the hill and lighted up the big pool, fish began to jump, swirl about and take what I offered them. There were other delights; an otter swam past me up to the throat of the pool, which he fished while I stuck to the tail. I did well, and think from his splashes that he did the same. The second night, as I trudged home down the road at about one a.m., the moon came over tall trees and lit up a long pool that I was passing. The scene was too lovely to leave, and forgetting about bed I began to fish again. Two fresh 2½-lb. sea trout were fought and landed while two others were lost, and then I got my cast and line into such a tangle that I gave up the struggle and ended the night in the orthodox manner.

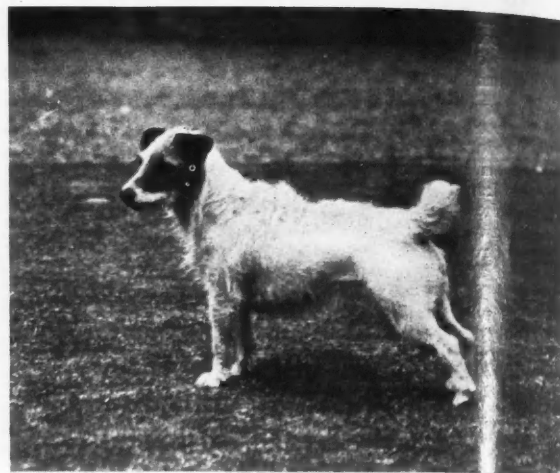
Then there had been that glorious half-minute in bright sunlight with a silver greyhound of a grilse. He took a Little's Fancy on the far side of the very tail of Castle pool, shook his head and raced up under the far bank and straight to the very throat on my bank before I had time to move or do anything about it. At the throat he hurled his glittering body in a somersault clean over the top of a large black rock from the far side to the near, raced all round another rock and departed with the fly in his mouth.

The loch had also provided sea trout by day, and on one of the few still evenings, we had stalked and killed out of a boat in a dead calm a sea trout on a Dry Tup and might have got others larger than he, if it had not begun to blow and rain before the light went. It had been a time of frantic endeavour, some success and many disasters—and then came the day.

The river had dropped after a spate to

moderate height and was clear, and my terrier Jane marched ahead of us up the road looking as if she had bought the valley and was out to extract every atom of sport out of it from fur, feather or fin. A stoat was marked and a rabbit was chivvied before we reached our beat, but until late in the morning nothing but small sea trout found the way to her teeth, for she is my landing net and I only have to carry a gaff for those whose weight is too much for her. Then I came to a stretch of water that no one else seems to fish, perhaps because it entails a walk through the thickest of undergrowth intersected with deep hidden ditches. Two stones under water in mid-stream steady the flow and produce a lie, and some yards below the lower stone my Little's Fancy was taken with a majestic thump. The fish hung for a moment and then raced down-stream and out to the far bank to a large bush that hung like an umbrella over the river, with branches trailing in the water round one clear opening facing me. It was a dangerous moment, and in answer to my holloa my daughter Jean arrived and seized Jane, who realising that this was no ordinary fish was racing up and down the bank giving vent to that high-pitched screaming cheer which would bring anything that loves a hunt flying to her side. She watches and grabs ordinary fish in silence, and this note is reserved for what the French call *une fameuse*.

On a small trout rod there are only two ways that I know of to induce a heavy fish below you to move up-stream. One is to throw him slack line, and this I dared not do because of the overhanging boughs under water, and the other is, without touching the reel, to walk up-stream yourself. This I did, and the good fish, as they often will, did what he was asked and swam out of the opening between the boughs up the river after me, as step by step I waded 50 yds. up-stream. There he was at last well in the open, and I could let him have it hot and strong, and to the tune of shrieks from Jane and excited patter from Jean the fight was waged in the strong but open river. There is one little shallow bay half way up the meadow, and in it he was gaffed and killed and Jane loosed to rush in for a proper worry in the long grass; an old cock sea trout, thick and with a great jaw on him, weighing 5¾ lb. That made the morning, but there was more to come after tea.



JANE

Jane was tired, Jean was riding, and I was alone on the lower water, when half way down a long pool with a violent throat, something heavy seized a black fly as it swept into the main stream. Presently the something shook its head with that alarming angry motion which seems peculiar to salmon, and I knew what I was in for. The fish, although it never made any startling or lengthy excursion, absolutely refused to do any of the things I wanted it to do, such as come up to the fastest water in the throat and so tire itself. If I wanted to go up it wanted to go down, if I wanted to go down it wanted to go up, with the result that we both lost our tempers and the fight waged fast and furious.

I was not in the least frightened of what might happen in that pool; my fear was what might happen if the fish went out of it down the rapids to the next pool below, which owing to the height of the river was hardly worth calling a pool at all and was moreover the last stop of any sort short of the sea. The danger would come when the fish was beat and unable to hold itself up against the current. With a salmon rod the fisherman can help a heavy tired fish to withstand the force of the current, but not with a nine foot six trout rod. Neither fish nor I had spared ourselves; we had both put our beef into it and he was obviously getting tired. His runs were shorter, his lunges feebler, but both of us were getting dangerously near the tail. Once I threw him slack line which turned him on the very lip, but he was soon down there again and this time he went over it, and we were off, both of us, with the river in full charge and the salmon in its arms.

I ran like a lamp-lighter, while the reel screamed, and passed the rod round three birch trees hand to hand, but there was a young forest ahead and no time to lose, so I leapt straight into the river and ran for it blind through waves and over rocks. Somehow on those occasions the rod and the fish seem to hold one up, or is it just ecstasy?

Anyhow I arrived at the next and last pool at the same moment as the salmon, who carried by the main stream which here curved in a half-moon had had to take a longer course than I. The only small area of quiet water lay by my bank and we were both glad to be safely there, and for some unaccountable reason as I reeled for dear life, all the line came in clear of rocks, so that we were closely connected again, both of us intent on stopping in that little oasis amid the savage swirl of water. But could I hold him there long enough to give a chance to gaff, and if not how was I or he to get down the next 400 yds. to the sea, without the vestige of a stop in it from top to bottom? Beat to the



LOOKING UP-STREAM FROM THE SEA POOL

world the fish crept in under my bank and lay there gasping but very deep. I lay the rod back and crouched, extricated the gaff from my fishing basket, peered into the water, saw the great dark form and made a most almighty grab.

There was an ugly kick and lurch, but I hung on, and out he came, 15¼ lb., and since that is not the sort of weight to carry about I deposited him in a newspaper inside a near-by cottage and was off again as hard as I could leg it up-stream.

In the next pool I fished there were sea trout asking for trouble, and several of these were landed, but the real heavy pull came in response to the last cast in the very tail. Here there was no question of going down: both banks below the pool were covered with impenetrable bushes and the stream was too deep and fast to give any chance of following by

water. The fish fortunately hesitated, and I began at once to walk up my bank without touching the reel. It was good walking, and without a check I marched to the throat of the pool 100 yds. above, the fish swimming quietly behind like a dog on a lead, without any remonstrance.

As I reached the throat I felt the strain ease as the fish came into a back-water half way up the pool on my bank, which was just where I wanted him. Now was the chance to get him on a short line, and I ran back towards him reeling as I ran. The bank was high, I was exactly above him and he had no chance of leaving the backwater in any direction without meeting a strong and adverse current. The odds were all in my favour. I was flushed with success and the rod bent double as he struggled to get out of the prison into which he had swum so innocently, but each time that his rushes took

him to its limits, the added strain from me pulled him back. It did not last long, and by the time I had finished with him he was on his back, stomach upwards, and was gaffed in that position. He proved to be the biggest grilse I have ever caught—8¼ lb.

The light had gone, and he and the sea trout in the basket had to be carried back to the cottage where the salmon lay in state, but I still had half a mile to go and the salmon had to come too. The difficulty was solved by a piece of strong cord slipped through the gills of the two big fish and over my shoulder, and I trudged down the middle of the road pulling them along behind me over the gravel. By the time home was reached their under sides were polished as bright as new half-crowns, and I turned them that way up for the benefit of the pyjamaed figures that came tumbling out of the house to see the spoils.

HORSES FOR COURSES

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

Few people can be more abysmally or unadvisedly ignorant of racing than I am, but I have ventured to head this article with what I take to be a racing expression signifying that certain horses habitually do their best on certain courses. It is sometimes, unless I am mistaken, applied to golfers likewise, and it is not uninteresting to look through the records of the great players and see how far it holds good. Champions, like humble people, have their likes and dislikes among courses, their favourites being as a rule either those upon which they were brought up in boyhood or those which suit their strokes and style of play. Of course it often is a little difficult to decide which is the proximate cause of their liking. One who is bred at St. Andrews is likely to be in favour of a course where there are plenty of running shots to be played, though this is not so markedly the case nowadays, since it is possible to pitch many approaches on that classic course where once upon a time a running shot would have been essential. Similarly he who was educated at Sandwich likes a course where it is profitable to hit the ball high; he thinks that golf played largely in the air is the best kind of golf. This opinion may be innate in him, but it is more probably due to his early upbringing.

If we study the lists of past champions we discover, or think that we have discovered, certain marked predilections in certain players. This is not so easy to do in the case of the more recent champions, because the honours have gone evenly round. Cotton, for example, who has been unquestionably the leading figure of modern times in this country, has won two Open Championships, a comparatively modest allowance when contrasted with that of some of his oldest predecessors, and I am not subtle enough to find any special resemblance between Sandwich and Carnoustie, the scenes of his two victories. But if we go further back we can deduce some likes and dislikes. Take Vardon, as the most conspicuous instance, with his six championships. He regarded Sandwich, I think, as the best of courses and somewhere in one of his books he declared that he wanted no better means of judging a golfer than to watch him play a round on that course. Well, here are the scenes of his six wins in chronological order: Muirfield, Prestwick, Sandwich, Prestwick, Sandwich, Prestwick. He won twice on his ideal course and three times at Prestwick, and it is not too fanciful to see a certain family likeness between the two. Both are possessed of tall sandhills and both suit the man who can pick the ball up and keep it a long time in the air as Vardon could. I should imagine that the stroke that appealed to him as much as any in the world would have been a full brassey shot over the sand to the green. It is notable that in his desperate duel with Taylor at Prestwick in 1914 the shot which he remembered vividly and believed had turned

the scale in his favour was that very brassey shot; it gained him a four in the crucial last round. Just as he liked these courses of hills and carrying shots so he disliked St. Andrews, a links of a quite different character, and he never won or played his most devastating golf there.

Now let us turn to Braid. One thing seems clear from his record. No man has had a calmer and more unprejudiced judgment, nor has been less likely to be influenced by personal fancies. Yet he is a patriotic Scotsman and his native air has always stirred him to his most successful efforts, for look at his list: Muirfield, St. Andrews, Muirfield, Prestwick, St. Andrews. There is not one English course among the five. He came very, very close in England, as at Hoylake and Sandwich; he won of necessity his many victories in the *News of the World* Tournament on English courses, but it would seem that in point of championships, the Scottish air, whether "snell" or "caller"—and I do not exactly know the difference—was essential to his highest achievements. It is also worthy of remark that, though he learnt the game at Elie, much of his early golf when he was beginning to attain his fuller stature as a golfer, was played at St. Andrews, where he worked as a joiner, and two championships may be set down as the fruit of that experience.

Taylor was more catholic in his tastes, for his five wins were at Sandwich, St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Deal, Hoylake in that order. He never had the chance, which he would have dearly loved, of playing in a championship on his native Westward Ho! He would have been bad to beat there if he had, and even after the war, when he was something too far past the flush of youth, he played very finely there in the *Daily Mail* Tournament of 1920; though neither he nor anyone else could quite compete with Duncan, on that occasion at his brilliant best. The point about Taylor's record which strikes one is the rather ironical fact that he won twice at St. Andrews, a course which never, I think, wholly appealed to him and was not supposed to suit his game. I say carefully "supposed"; because J. H. preferred the "all-air route" it was very foolish to think that so great a player could not adapt his game to circumstances.

Now let us look at the amateurs and obviously Mr. John Ball, with his one Open and eight Amateur Championships provides the widest field for research and conjecture. He was a very great golfer anywhere, but still he was first and foremost a Hoylake golfer, who as a rule pursued his ordinary avocations at home and, except for the yearly visits to championships, did not wander often or far afield. He did himself full justice there but no more, for he won three out of his eight Amateur Championships on his native soil, his other five being at Prestwick (twice), Sandwich, St. Andrews and Westward Ho! As he won his

single Open at Prestwick, that course seems to have suited him at least as well as any other, even as Hoylake, which with its old essential hardness was so different from the soft Ayrshire turf. The other great Hoylake figure, Mr. Hilton, only enjoyed a single triumph on his own course. That was to be sure a great one, his second Open Championship in 1897, but his four Amateur Championships were all won elsewhere and his other Open at Muirfield. It is not always an unmixed blessing to a player to be at home, for he is conscious that all his supporters expect tremendous things of him there and are too passionately anxious for him to win. A third great Hoylake golfer Mr. Jack Graham who, sad to say, never won a championship at all, suffered agonies, I am sure, from those good wishes of his friends at home.

Incidentally Muirfield seems to have been a fortunate starting place for those who have won more than one championship. Mr. Hilton surprised the world there by winning his first Open, eight years before he ever won the Amateur; Vardon began his career of victory there, so did Braid and, in more recent times, though it is now some while ago, it was there that Mr. Tolley opened his Championship account as an Oxford undergraduate. However, when one thinks of Muirfield one thinks, or at any rate I do, first and foremost of Mr. Robert Maxwell. In him was perhaps the most striking example of "horses for courses" and of the advantage of being at home. He played regularly there and when he was at his formidable best there was no reason to look any further for the favourite for the Amateur Championship, if it were to be played at Muirfield. He won there twice and had some narrow squeaks in the course of doing so, notably in the final against Major L. N. Hutchison, in which he was one down with two to play, but still, from the very start of both tournaments, he had always looked like winning. How supreme was the belief in him was shown by Ben Sayers's remark before that famous final: "It'll be a match if Maxwell's bang off." He was certainly not "bang off" and the words were unjust to his opponent, but how great the implied compliment!

Mr. F. G. Tait was almost as much of a local idol at St. Andrews as Mr. Maxwell was at Muirfield or Mr. Ball at Hoylake, and no one was ever more deeply devoted to the old course; yet he never won a championship there, nor ever reached the final, though to be sure his career was cut all too short, when he had plenty of time before him. He won at Sandwich and Hoylake and, though he greatly admired Hoylake, he thought little of Sandwich, which he called "a good one-shot course"; nor did his success there alter his opinion. Most of us are not so firm and impartial in our views. We are apt to think best the courses on which we do best, a very amiable weakness.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE PENTREHOBYN
"YSBUR"

SIR,—I should like to offer some further remarks in support of Mr. Hussey's suggestions (October 15 issue) about the origin and purpose of the *ysbur* at Pentrehobyn, Flintshire (illustrated below), which I should date to the first half of the sixteenth century.

I think that its extraordinary finial can be closely related to the fantastic and extravagantly decorated spires which rise from the free-standing screen at Rufford Hall in Lancashire. One peculiar element of the design of these, in a much simplified form, can be clearly recognised in the segments of spheres at Pentrehobyn, while the carved tracery at the end of the *ysbur* closely resembles that on a panel forming the head of a doorway at Rufford. The dates would also

1415 the cognate word *spera* is translated as "screen or dresser."

It is even tempting to wonder whether the word *spire* may not also be related. The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary's* derivation from the old English *spīr* (with its German cognates), meaning a sprout, shoot, sprig, does not seem to rule out the possibility.

There is of course the simpler explanation—that the Pentrehobyn post formed the end of a movable screen, such as that at Rufford; but, apart from tradition, its lowness and the lack of any evidence of struts makes this improbable, as the disposition of the pattern suggests that it was not ever appreciably higher.

In Fenton's *Tours in Wales*, page 227, under date August 5, 1810, Carnarvonshire, we find: "The old Church road from Dolbenmaen passed

been a rich traditional lore, of Celtic origin, connected with these screens or *ysburs*—or why the evident relationship of the Rufford and Pentrehobyn finials, at places far apart, but both in the un-Saxon west? And what do they symbolise? It is possible that the Rufford finials are derived from what are now known as "corn dollies"—which, I believe, are survivals of pagan votive or propitiatory offerings. Their extraordinary form and 'construction' seem to represent elaborately plaited straw with bouquets of ears."—ED.]

THE STONES OF
STONEHENGE

SIR,—I was interested in Major Jarvis's remarks in COUNTRY LIFE about Stonehenge stones and their transport to Amesbury, and in view of his reference to local legend, perhaps

northern counties and are fully described and magnificently illustrated in O. Evan Thomas's work *Domestic Utensils of Wood*. Their length was usually about 5½ ins. to 10 ins. and not 36 ins. as implied in your correspondent's query.—GUY LUNCOMBE, *Attleborough, Norfolk*.

DREDGING THE RIVER
WISSEY

SIR,—May I reply to your correspondent's letter of November 5, *Dredging the River Wissey*?

Section 34 (a) of the Land Drainage Act of 1930 makes provision for the deepening, widening or straightening of watercourses, and at the same time the Act insists on the protection of fisheries. It has been found in practice that it is not easy to alter the character of a watercourse without injuring fisheries. The Ministry realises this, for in its comprehensive Report dated June, 1937 (H.M. Stationery Office, 1s. 6d.), which describes the operations and proceedings under the Act, are these words: "Well planned schemes of land drainage and flood prevention should be so arranged as to 'conserve' the supply of water for dry periods." (Page 58.)

Another point upon which the Ministry is agreed is this:

It is not altogether wise to discharge river water too quickly. These statements appear to prove that it is not correct to assume that the main function of a Drainage Board is "to get rid of water."

Agriculturists are agreed that it is desirable to drain waterlogged land, and this can often be achieved by the restoration of neglected ditches and by the removal of timber fallen into streams and excessive growth of aquatic plants, and in my view this should be done and the result observed before watercourses are "widened, deepened and straightened."

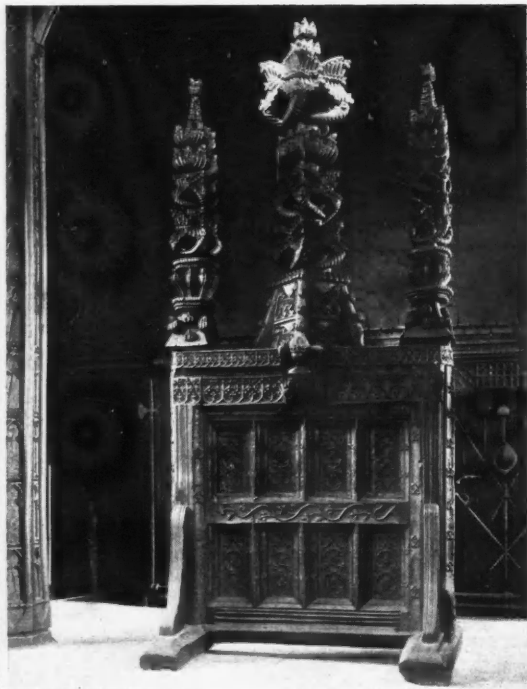
In the matter of land drainage schemes "engineering" is one aspect but not the only one. It is quite possible to do too much drainage, which may injure the land, the fisheries and the amenities, to say nothing of the unnecessary expense.—G. H. JACK, M.Inst.C.E., *The Manor House, Breinton, near Hereford*.

SIR,—I am much interested in Mr. Mills's letter in your issue of November 5, and in particular in his statement that the Great Ouse Catchment Board frankly told him that "they were concerned neither with agriculture nor fisheries so long as they got rid of the water."

My case is not the same as that of your correspondent, but it is analogous, and of public interest. I am situated on the River Tas in Norfolk. The East Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board descended on my land without previous notice, and has cut and burnt all trees within 15 ft. of the water's margin. The trees in question are of 50 years' growth and over. The Board, which is governed by by-laws, is empowered to cut all trees planted since 1937, but none such has been planted. The Board is required to give notice of its intentions, so that a reasonable security may be given to the public against indiscriminate damage. No such notice was given. On my taking the matter up with the Board I received no answer from the clerk. The chief engineer telephoned my solicitor to say that as there was obstruction to his wishes he would "use emergency powers."

It will be seen that when certain action is taken by a public body the private individual is faced with the unpleasant dilemma of saying nothing, or going to law, at endless trouble and expense.

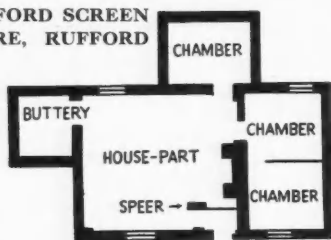
In Mr. Mills's case damage is being done in the sacred name of agriculture; in mine, there is no shadow of an excuse. I am at the



(Above) CENTRAL FINIAL OF RUFFORD SCREEN
(Centre) THE SCREEN OR SPERE, RUFFORD
OLD HALL

(Above) FRAGMENT OF YSBUR
AT PENTREHOBYN
(Left) SPEER IN PLAN OF
HOUSE AT NORTH MEOLS,
LANCASHIRE

See letter: *The Pentrehobyn "Ysbur"*



agree, as Rufford seems to have been built between 1491 and 1523.

As to the word *spera*, it seems that it was originally used of the upright "spars" or timber posts carrying an arch to support the roof of a hall, then applied to the short screens connecting those uprights with the side walls to close the end of the hall, as at Rufford, and was later transferred to the small low independent screen which served to shelter the fireplace in the principal room of a small house from the draughts of the adjacent outer doorway, as shown in the sketch plan from the 1933 edition of S. O. Addy's *Evolution of the English House* (page 68).

Such a use for the Pentrehobyn *ysbur* would entirely agree with the tradition that it "stood near the fireplace" and "near the door in the kitchen of the old house" and, in such a position, the flat top of the screen would have provided an ideal serving place for the dole of bread and cheese, etc., supplied on demand to the passing traveller—a custom which obtained at several Welsh houses and was in force quite recently in certain Carnarvonshire farms.

Literary support for this theory is to be found in *The Mediaeval Latin Word List* which records that in 1320 *Sperrum*, and in 1325 *Sparrum*, meant a "spar or talk"; but in 1579 and in

through the house (*Ystumcegid*), and every person passing was entitled to a Viaticum left on a shelf in the passage, which was called *Sbyr*, or some such thing, provided he was tall enough to reach the shelf." The editor (Canon Fisher) adds a note: "The old meaning of *ysbur*, pillar, post, is now obsolete." Pughe in his *Dictionary* adds: "a short post or supporter of a shelf, in ancient houses, projecting into the floor, in the form of a screen, and used to put by such victuals as is in present consumption." Canon Fisher records the derivation from the English *speer* still used in dialects (e.g. Cheshire) and adds: "There is a proverbial saying in North Wales, 'Phowch y spâr ar y 'sbur,'—put the spare on the spear."—W. J. HEMP, *Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, Criccieth, North Wales*.

[Mr. Hussey writes: "The further light thrown by Mr. Hemp on this remarkable object at Pentrehobyn is most interesting. There must have

I can add something to what he says. My grandfather lived in the neighbourhood of Bulford, and I have always heard from my father and uncles that a large stone now lying in the river bed about three-quarters of a mile below Bulford Bridge was a Stonehenge stone that, the legend said, had been dropped overboard by mistake. I have seen the top of the stone from time to time when the river bed is not silted up. My father confirmed this and said that he always heard that some generations ago they put a ring in this stone and tried to haul it out with a team of oxen, but, of course, failed.

I can see no reason why this river cannot have been suitable for boats or timber rafts, as even in comparatively recent days the Itchen was navigable above Winchester, and if the flow in both has been dropping more or less equally, the Avon in Stonehenge days may have been very large.—H., *Yeovil, Somerset*.

WHAT ARE THEY?

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent's enquiry *What Are They?* in your issue of October 22, these objects would appear to be knitting-sheaths of the eighteenth or first quarter of the nineteenth centuries. They were mainly to be found in the

extreme limit of the Catchment Board's area, and can prove that I have always kept the river free from "obstructions."—N. M. HASTINGS, *Rainthorpe Hall, Norfolk.*

SHEDS IN HOUSING SCHEMES

SIR,—Members of local authorities who read COUNTRY LIFE may care to have before them the experience of

The existing church was consecrated in 1315.

In 1544 the whole property was granted by the Crown to Robert Burgoyne and John Scudamore, the former holding it until 1713, when Sir Christopher Wren purchased the estate. It remained in his family until 1861, when the Dugdale family came into possession, and, demolishing the beautiful Elizabethan abbey house,

recess, one having apparently been replaced by the gates, which open on to well-kept turf and clipped yew hedges from a side road to the abbey. —CHARLES ARMSTRONG, *Warwick.*

A SHAKESPEARE STATUE

SIR,—As portraits of Shakespeare are rare, I thought you might care to see the enclosed photograph showing a life-size statue which is supposed to depict Shakespeare as a boy. No doubt it is a purely imaginary conception, but, for all that, one worthy of note. I understand that this is the only known statue of the Bard-to-be in his youth.

It is by the 19th-century Italian sculptor A. Salata, but how this specimen of his work came to form part of the collection housed by Mr. V. Walton of Durham in Blagrove—that curious dwelling at Barnard Castle recently mentioned in COUNTRY LIFE—I have not been able to discover.—G. B. W., *Leeds.*

WEOBLEY'S LOSS

SIR,—I send you a snapshot showing the block of 17th-century houses which has been completely destroyed by a disastrous fire on November 4. This was one of the finest bits of old Weobley, Herefordshire, and locally believed to have been the work of John Abel, the famous Herefordshire builder, the "King's Carpenter" of the Civil War. It adjoined the Market Hall, pulled down a long time ago, which was certainly his work. As the block was on an island site, the fire did not spread to the rest of the

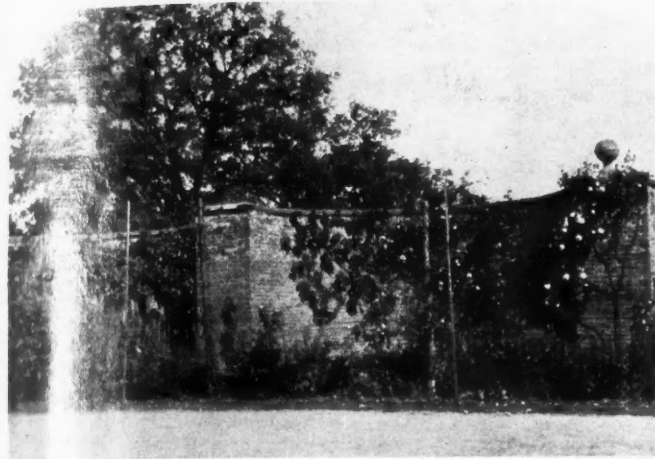


SALATA'S STATUE OF SHAKESPEARE AS A BOY

See letter: A Shakespeare Statue

industrial town. We ourselves and our cats were translated from their country home to a new abode which had a minute garden surrounded by a high plank fence to ensure the privacy of middle-class suburbia.

This blank expanse seemed to



GARDEN WALLING BY SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN

See letter: In Sir Christopher Wren's Garden

two successful housing efforts when they came to apply the policy of the Ministry of Health to include in all new housing, as suggested to them by this Committee, space for one or more bicycles and a "pram."

The Church Army tell us that they have already got lock-up sheds for this purpose in all block dwellings where there is no private garden. Some schemes have one shed per tenant at 3d. a week; in others the demand is met by two or three sheds fewer than the number of houses. The Guinness Trust has found that not fewer than two sheds are needed for every three dwellings. The tenant pays from 1d. to 3d. per week according to the size of the shed.

"We have found during our long experience," the Trust informs us, "that they are very much appreciated by tenants, and if we were building again to-day we should consider that the provision of such sheds was as much a necessity as, for example, bathrooms or a kitchen."—H. R. WATLING, *Chairman of the National Committee on Cycling, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2.*

IN SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN'S GARDEN

SIR,—The abbey of Wroxall, six miles from Warwick, was founded in 1141 by Hugh de Hatton, and was dedicated to St. Leonard, the nuns being instructed in the Benedictine Order.

built in 1864 a large modern mansion slightly to the west of the old one. Ruins of the old priory with the roofless Chapter House may still be seen in the lovely grounds.

The old church has a mural tablet to Christopher Wren and his second wife Mary, dated 1773: she being the widow of Sir John Burgoyne. This Christopher was the surviving son of the great architect, and wrote the *Parentalia* or account of his father's life, published in 1750. He laid the last stone of the lantern above the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in the presence of his father, whom he succeeded as M.P. for Windsor.

How much of his father's life was spent at Wroxall is not known, but no doubt Sir Christopher frequently retired for rest to the peace and quiet of Warwickshire with his son, and almost certainly designed the charming garden walling near the church, facing south to catch the sunlight. This wall is 10 ft. 6 ins. high with a 5-in. brick capping and is built of 2¼-in. bricks of pleasing tone and texture. There are five semicircular bays of 19 ft. 2 ins. width, with 3 ft. 8 in. piers surmounted by stone balls, some of which have disappeared. The 2½-in. brick plinth around the semicirculars do not return along the piers' fronts—an unusual piece of brick construction. The back elevation is divided up by plain brick pilasters. The fine large iron gates and brick piers are of 19th-century workmanship, beyond which is a sixth



HEREFORDSHIRE 17th-CENTURY HOUSES DESTROYED BY FIRE

See letter: Weobley's Loss

village, as otherwise it might easily have done.—M. W., *Hereford.*

SUBURBAN EXILES

SIR,—Some years ago my work unfortunately made me an exile in an

emphasise our isolation, so that finally I resolved to put on it cat-pictures. Alas! most of these proved to be effigies. Circumstances and a horrid fate removed the cat-friends. Sweet William was killed and lies beneath the apple tree near his faded picture. Loop (a pseudonym for his original name, Christopher Columbus) independently found himself a home on a farm and became the Old Man of the Herd. Kit-kat became the pampered pet of a hospital, and others were found new homes. Only the critic-cat Rare Beauty, is left to us, and he still keeps his original character, his favourite place being asprawl upon my desk.—F. BURGESS, *Oxted, Surrey.*

ENGLISH LANTERN CLOCKS

SIR,—Mr. R. W. Symonds is to be congratulated on a very useful and accurate study of the English lantern clock (COUNTRY LIFE, November 5) and its relationship to the mediæval clock with foliot balance. Fig. 8, however, is not a photograph of a clock by Davis Mell, as stated, but



CAT FENCE-CARTOONS IN SUBURBIA

See letter: Suburban Exiles



BRASS-CASED LANTERN CLOCK BY DAVIS MELL WITH ORIGINAL MINUTE HAND
(Temp. CHARLES II)

See letter: *English Lantern Clocks*

of one by William Bowyer, circa 1640. This is an obvious mixing of photographs for which Mr. Symonds is doubtless not responsible.

One has to be very careful indeed about laying down a hard-and-fast rule about the characteristics of these clocks, for upon close examination "never" usually becomes "hardly ever." Thus Cecinsky says categorically that these clocks "are invariably one-handed," and two pages further on disproves his point by a photograph of that very clock by Davis Mell which without doubt Mr. Symonds had in mind. In my own collection there is one—admittedly

late—which not only has two hands but chimes the quarters on eight bells. Yet another is a lantern clock made for Turkey by Markwick Markham. Turkey, by the way, seems to have remained a good customer for these clocks when the English had forsaken the lantern for the bracket clock. Again, I know at least one example of a high-class lantern clock with trains calculated for eight-days' working.

A month ago I should have agreed with Mr. Symonds that spring-driven lantern clocks were invariably fakes, but a curious clock by Thos. Moore, Ipswich, made me revise my opinion. This clock is undoubtedly authentic and is a curious mixture of lantern and bracket types, spring driven, with fuses. Moore was an experimenter—he invented a fusee winding both ways—and this clock is the only one of its type that I have ever seen and may be unique. So Mr. Symonds's warning stands; the spring-driven lantern is to be avoided. A friend of mine was recently offered one of these fakes at an astronomical price. The dealer had fitted case-clock corner-pieces for frets!

Trouble with the dilatory clock-keeper was not confined to Dijon. The archiepiscopal big guns were turned on such a one at York, in 1552, when Archbishop Holgate wrote: "Also we will and command that the keeper of the clocke, if he upon convenient warnynge do not amende his diligence in keepinge of the said clocke, the same keeper to be removed, or els a more connynger man to be assigned in his rowme. . . ."

—N. V. DINSDALE (Rev.),
Tosside Vicarage, Skipton, Yorkshire.
[We illustrate herewith the clock by Davis Mell, referred to by Mr. Symonds and for which that by William Bowyer was substituted through a mischance for which Mr. Symonds was not responsible.—ED.]

NEST-SANITATION

SIR,—I read an article on birds in a recent number of *COUNTRY LIFE* in which the author, Miss Frances

Pitt, described the habit of nest-sanitation which has been developed on different lines by various species. We may have noticed that the majority of our songsters leave spotless nests behind them after their young have flown; but it is not until we have watched from a hiding-tent that we realise what a remarkable trait this is of so many small birds.

It is indeed difficult to account for the fact that some species find it necessary to be sanitary and others ignore complacently the mess made in and around the nest by their offspring. I once saw a tree-pipit clean up, after the nestlings had flown and were several yards away; the habit had evidently become so fixed in this bird, that he was unable to see their nest soiled without cleaning it.

Like Miss Pitt, I have noticed that the cock chaffinch is often more assiduous in this matter than the hen. Although I have never seen him take part in sitting the eggs, in several instances I have known him take a more lively interest in the young after they are about a week old than she.

Regurgitation is as equally surprising a habit as nest-sanitation and is undertaken in the nesting season by the majority of the finch family, as well as by members of several other families of birds. This makes nest-finding of greenfinch, redpoll, bullfinch, chaffinch and others much more difficult than is the case when small birds openly carry insects, grubs and worms to the nest in their bills. The act of regurgitation, though interesting, is apt to spoil a good photograph from an artistic point of view; my picture of a cock chaffinch demonstrates that some odd expressions of countenance are sometimes portrayed.

In the case of several pairs of chaffinches which I have had under observation from a hiding-tent, it has been the cock which was the first to bring a juicy green caterpillar for the young when they were almost fully fledged and he alone at intervals brought this raw food for them, while the hen continued automatically to give them pre-digested seeds and berries. —CATHERINE M. CLARK,
Fayrer Holme, Windermere.



A COCK CHAFFINCH'S ODD EXPRESSION

See letter: *Nest-Sanitation*

FARMING NOTES

THE COST OF "GOING T.T."

RECKONING that by "going T.T." he could net an additional £10 income from every cow in his herd, a Dorset farmer asks how he should set about getting a T.T. licence. As a good many other milk-producers must be thinking on the same lines I have made enquiries, and here is the advice I can pass on. The first step is to put the buildings and equipment into satisfactory condition to pass the County Council authorities. What will do for the accredited standard will generally do for the T.T. standard, but some county authorities are more particular than others about sterilising facilities. It is still possible to get a suitable outfit for steam-sterilising the buckets and other gear. The first step then should be to find out exactly the requirements of the local authority. This is not the time for too much fussiness about air-space and the width of gutters. Anyway the all-important matter in the production of clean milk is hygiene and common cleanliness rather than special equipment. The right conditions certainly aid clean milk production and make it easier to maintain a satisfactory standard. To-day there is difficulty in many districts in getting any building or repair work done. To comply with the requirements of the County Council it may be necessary to invoke the assistance of the War Agricultural Committee in getting a licence for the materials which the local builder will want. But War Agricultural Committees and County Councils should be working in close harmony, and there should be no difficulty about this.

THE next step is to have all the cattle on the farm subjected to the tuberculin test. They will need to be identified by tattooing them in the ear unless of course they are already marked for the purpose of milk recording. All re-acting animals will have to be removed immediately from the rest of the herd. It may not be practicable to sell them immediately, but they must at least be properly isolated. A confirmatory test follows and any further re-actors must be dealt with in the same way. The proportion of re-actors varies widely. In some herds

it will only be 10 per cent. or 20 per cent., in others 50 per cent. or 60 per cent. The statement is often made that 40 per cent. of our dairy cows would react to the tuberculin test if all in the country were tested. I have always thought that this estimate was on the high side.

WHEN he has got his certificate of the test from the veterinary surgeon, who must be one of those officially approved for this purpose, the farmer makes his formal application for a licence to produce T.T. milk. The licensing authority is the County Council. He must make his application within a month of the test and give an undertaking that all re-actors have been removed from the herd. After this first tuberculin test, the Ministry of Agriculture becomes responsible for the veterinary work and no further charge falls on the farmer. My own view is that a T.T. herd is a sound investment. It is pretty certain that the guaranteed premium for T.T. milk will continue indefinitely, and this in itself is worth a good deal. Apart from this, a T.T. herd should be less prone to disease and the life of the cows should be prolonged.

AT the present time the Government's interest in the tuberculin test is limited to dairy herds. In the days before the war, beef cattle as well as dairy cows were eligible for the attested scheme. To-day entry into the *elite* ranks is only by way of a T.T. licence. That is to say unless a farmer is producing T.T. milk, as well as running a beef herd, he cannot attain the attested status. Obviously while veterinary facilities are as limited as they are to-day it is right to concentrate on the dairy herds, but we want to clear up disease among all cattle, beef as well as dairy. Even to-day the farmer with a T.T. herd may want to fatten store cattle in yards or on pastures. To be quite sure of safeguarding his T.T. licence, he ought to have nothing but T.T. cattle on the farm, and he would no doubt be prepared to pay a premium for beef stores coming from an attested farm.

I NOTICE a lot of lime going on to the land in my district, more than I remember seeing at any time before. This interest in liming is due no doubt to the readiness of district officers and others to test soil for lime deficiency. This free testing service has existed for a long time, but not every farmer made use of it. Now so many of us have got accustomed to calling on the technical officers of War Agricultural Committees that they take this readily in their stride as part of the service for increased food production. In my district too a new lime works has been opened up within the last year, and supplies can be got much more easily than before. The land must have been chalked pretty freely in past ages because there are a great many pits in the fields. Even where the soil overlies chalk it may be lime-deficient. For lasting effects there is probably a good deal to be said for ground chalk as against burnt lime, but lump chalk, which is what the farmer may get by digging for himself, does not give such quick or uniform results as the fine ground chalk. I believe that the 50 per cent. Government grant for lime applies to chalk which the farmer digs for himself. He can put in an application saying how much he proposes to lime, keep a record of labour costs in digging the chalk and finally recover half from the Ministry of Agriculture.

THERE seems also to be an extension of water supply schemes, and I hear that several farmers have got their proposals approved for a 50 per cent. grant. The scope of the grant has now been extended to cover a supply of water to straw-yards as well as to farm buildings that house dairy cows. A good supply of water is one of the essential things for clean milk production, and lack of water for washing utensils and cooling milk has been responsible for a good deal of milk soured. It may be hardly economical to have a separate water supply scheme for one farm. It often pays best to get several neighbours to join forces, each paying a water rate.

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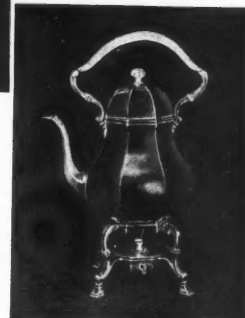
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SOME BOOKS OF THE YEAR

Travel : Biography : War : Fiction

By **HOWARD SPRING**

I MUST not call this a survey of the year's books. Though, during this war, the number of published books has fallen, there are still so many that few people are competent, I imagine, to give even the most general idea of what has been done in this class and that.

No; this can be no more than a recalling of some books out of those that I have read which for some reason or another have remained in my mind.

TRAVEL CLASSIC

Under the heading "Travel," I see that I have put down only one book: *The Gobi Desert*, by Millicent Cable with Francesca French (Hodder and Stoughton, 21s.). If I were asked which book, out of my year's reading, had the best chance of lasting, of becoming what we call a "classic," I should say this one. It is one of the best travel books I have read, not only this year but in any year, and it has that rare quality of the spirit which lifts a book above the concerns with which it deals, just as we feel that some people are so much greater than the things which make up their daily lives. A greengrocer, after all, is a son of God and can live like one among the curly kale, while a man handling the greatest affairs can do so like a poltroon. These reflections are not irrelevant to this book, for as these ladies who have written it spend their years travelling in the desert, the commonest things they come upon are invested with the light that can fall only from writers who themselves shine. It is this, more than anything—this overflow of a great personality into the pages—that gives to a book a hope of immortality.

Something of this same quality is to be found in Mrs. Belloc Lowndes's book *Where Love and Friendship Dwelt* (Macmillan, 12s. 6d.). This is a continuation of the author's earlier book *I Too Have Lived in Arcadia*, and between them the two make a most delightful reconstruction of a young ardent life. Mrs. Lowndes was born in France just before the 1870 war broke out. The second book takes us up to the time of her marriage. France during those years—especially the France of writers and artists and those who moved within their circle—is here recaptured with tenderness of affection, a delightful mingling of love and knowledge.

AMERICAN LEADER

Among the biographies that I have put down, Mr. S. K. Padover's *Jefferson* (Cape, 21s.) should not be overlooked now when, belatedly, there is a desire in England to know more of America. Jefferson is at the very head of the stream of American consciousness; what he was and did is here excellently set forth.

A biography which gave me much pleasure was General C. Oglander-Aspinall's *Admiral's Widow* (Hogarth Press, 12s. 6d.). This is the story of the later years of Mrs. Edward Boscawen, who married a younger son of the first Viscount Falmouth. She was a good deal of a blue-stocking. Dr. Johnson, Hannah More and other writers of the time were her friends.

The book brings clearly alive much of social and literary life at the end of the eighteenth century.

That hard-working journalist with just a touch of genius, Harriet Martineau, is the subject of a biography by John Cranstoun Nevill (Muller, 5s.). If only for *Feats on the Fjords*, a book which children still delight to read, Harriet deserves to be remembered, and this is a good little summary of her life and work.

Time and Chance, by Joan Evans (Longmans, 21s.), is the story of three generations of the Evans family. The Evans best known to the public is Sir Arthur, who explored Knossos; but, for myself, I found the social history of this book even more enthralling than the personal. It throws a flood of light on the domestic and business fashions of the middle classes throughout the last three generations.

During the year I have read only one book of literary criticism that has any weight, and that is Lord David Cecil's *Hardy the Novelist* (Constable, 7s. 6d.). It is a short book, but it abounds in sympathetic understanding of one of the greatest, yet most enigmatic, figures in the story of our literature. My own belief concerning Hardy is that as the years go on his fame will far outgrow even our present appreciation. This little book should give many readers a wise angle of approach to the novels.

AT WAR

Books dealing directly with the war have been legion. Many of them, if not most, are written by journalists in intervals of a professional life which has never been more arduous or imperilled. It is hardly to be expected that these should give us more than cinema-pictures of the stream of modern life as it flashes by at its emotional pitch and breakneck pace. We cannot ask for the synthesis that a great book demands. Perhaps some day another Hardy will sit above the clouds and give a Jehovah-judgment. But that is not yet. Meantime, some of these flashes are of admirable vigour; for an example, the short book called *They Were Expendable* (Hamish Hamilton, 6s.). This is written by Mr. W. L. White, an American journalist, who questioned all the survivors of an American motor torpedo-boat flotilla that had fought in the Philippines. There were six little ships. Every one was at last sunk and most of the men were lost. This tale is of the account they rendered before the end. It is a moving record of human resolution.

THE GERMAN IN NORWAY

A more contemplative, more solidly built-up book is *The Mountains Wait* (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.) in which Mr. Theodor Broch, who was Mayor of Narvik when the Germans came, gives an account of the building up of the little town with which he was long associated and of the swift destruction that fell upon it. With Mr. Broch's book should be read *They Came as Friends*, by Tor Myklebost (Gollancz, 6s.). This surveys the whole field of German exploitation in Norway. Each book has its tragic

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undercurrent; but in each the dour, resolute spirit of Norwegian resistance, awaiting its time, is clear all through.

A war-book of importance, chiefly for its dry lack of illusion, is *Report from Tokyo* (Hammond, Hammond, 2s. 6d.), wherein Mr. Joseph C. Grew, who had been the United States Ambassador to Japan for some time before war came, sets out the hard facts of what we face in our struggle with that country. Two good books for those who would know something about Russia are Albert Rhys Williams's *The Russians* (Harrap, 7s. 6d.), which is enlightening concerning the eastern withdrawal of industry; and Maurice Hindus's *Mother Russia* (Collins, 12s. 6d.), an account of the author's recent visit to the country.

GREAT HUMANISTS

In a sense, both Sir Richard Livingstone's *Education for a World Adrift* (Cambridge University Press, 3s. 6d.) and Mr. Herbert Agar's *A Time for Greatness* (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 7s. 6d.) may be called war books, for they seek to uncover the spiritual omissions that have led men into their dire physical calamity. Each author is a great humanist, in reaction from the materialist approach whose fruits are now so bitter in the mouth; and the same may be said of Mr. H. J. Massingham, whose hope and warning are embodied in *The Tree of Life* (Chapman and Hall, 8s. 6d.).

It is symptomatic of our time that many books are being written about country life in its romantic aspect and about forestry, agriculture and the other fundamental rural industries that recognise the right way up of the pyramid: the town based on the country. Richard St. Barbe Baker's *Africa Drums* (Lindsay Drummond, 12s. 6d.), a fine exposition (amid much else) of forestry work in Africa; *The Way of the Land*, by Sir George Stapledon (Faber, 12s. 6d.), a book of wide understanding in which 30 years of speaking and writing are condensed; *O More Than Happy Countryman*, by H. E. Bates (Country Life, 8s. 6d.), a true countryman's song of praise and word of warning; *Country Hoard*, by Alison Uttley (Faber, 6s.), and *Candleford Green*, by Flora Thompson (Oxford University Press, 7s. 6d.). These books are recollections of childhood.

THE YEAR'S NOVELS

Novels, as usual, have been numberless; and—is there any significance in this, I wonder?—out of the nine I have put down all but two are written by women. I don't know whether to put first on my list Storm Jameson's *Cloudless May* (Macmillan, 10s. 6d.) or Elizabeth Myers's *A Well Full of Leaves* (Chapman and Hall, 8s. 6d.). Miss Jameson's book is the product of a life that has had much experience and of a pen that has been brought by long use to a fine edge. Miss Myers is young and inexperienced

and this is her first novel, full of the faults that the young commit.

But each of these is a beautiful book, one ripe with fulfilment, one exciting with promise. Miss Jameson's deals with life in a small French community as the German threat draws nearer and at last overwhelms it. Miss Myers's (at least the promising and significant part of it) deals with adolescence in a northern slum. But between them they are the peak of the year's output, so far as I know it.

LOVELY TALE

Not far behind these I would place Miss Eiluned Lewis's *The Captain's Wife* (Macmillan, 7s. 6d.), a short novel set in a Welsh coast township at the time of the last sailing ships. Like Miss Jameson's, this novel is not just a concatenation of incident: it is something in which the author's own spirit shines, a book with a point of view about what life is and how it may with most seamliness be conducted. Not that it is in any way sententious or prosy. I don't mean that at all. It is lively with character, incident and scene; but all is subject to a clear-cut conception of a gracious way of life.

A more romantic and "faraway" story is Miss Naomi Royde Smith's *Mildensee* (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.), a novel of musical life is like an old fairy-tale translated into contemporary terms. It has the life of its own tradition and moves beautifully within it.

I thought Sheila Kaye-Smith's long family chronicle *Tambourine, Trumpet and Drum* (Cassell, 10s. 6d.) the best book she has written for a long time; and Miss E. M. Delafield's *Late and Soon* (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.), failing to convince in its central incident, was none the less an astringent commentary on the breakdown of old family pieties. *Assignment in Brittany*, by Helen McInnes (Harrap, 9s.) was for me the best thriller of the year.

A PARABLE

There remain two novels by men: Mr. Robert Greenwood's *The Squad Goes Out* (Dent, 8s. 6d.) in which life during London's bombing is exhibited in all its loss and tragedy, its heroism and hope; and Mr. Richard Llewellyn's *None but the Lonely Heart* (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.). Mr. Llewellyn's book, I imagine, will be puzzling to many readers unable to clear their heads of *How Green Was My Valley*. It seemed to me to have much extravagance, much that was incredible, and to have chosen too insignificant a character to bear the weight of its tragedy. But I think it has to be judged on its character as a parable. If I have interpreted the author's intention aright, he is seeking here to illustrate the shoddiness of life that our "civilisation" offers to too many, and the dangers to society that arise therefrom. He has carried this out with great vigour.

(Gift Books are reviewed on page 918)



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A SELECTION BY HOWARD SPRING

I NEVER send a book as a present unless I am well acquainted with the receiver's tastes. It is wiser to send a book "token" and let him choose for himself. And this difficulty lies over my mind also when I am asked to write about "gift books." The fact is that every book is the right gift for someone, and the expression "gift books" is essentially meaningless. All I can do is name a few books that have some special attraction in their make-up or illustration and hope that someone will find among them something he wants for someone else.

ARTIST'S "LIFE"

Of all the books I have put by under this head, the one I should myself have most liked to receive is Marguerite Steen's *William Nicholson* (Collins, 16s.). This, I suppose, is because collecting lives of artists and books containing reproductions of great paintings is something of a mania with me. From the moment I first saw Nicholson's portrait of Gertrude Jekyll, and his no less celebrated picture of her gardening boots, I have loved his work. A number of the pictures are reproduced here, and Miss Steen's story of the artist's life is itself a piece of gay impressionism.

While I am dealing with this book from the house of Collins, let me call attention to the firm's series known as "Britain in Pictures" (4s. 6d. each). They are charming books. They have covered an enormous amount of ground from circuses to statesmen, from horses to historians; and each one is illustrated with pictures whose selection and reproduction are beyond praise. It should not be difficult to choose an acceptable and not too expensive present from among them. The three before me now are: *British Orientalists*, by A. J. Arberry; *English Cities and Small Towns*, by John Betjeman; and *British Seamen*, by David Mathew.

FINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Two books which could hardly be misaddressed, to whomsoever sent, are W. A. Poucher's *Escape to the Hills* (Country Life, 25s.) and *The Saturday Book*, edited by Leonard Russell (Hutchinson, 12s. 6d.). Anyone who is at all interested in photography will not need to be told that Mr. Poucher is a superb photographer. His book contains letterpress as well as pictures, but the pictures are the thing. He has ranged the Lake District, Scotland, and North Wales, and brought back a collection of majestic amplitude. Watered valleys, sky-reflecting lakes, peaks seared by wind and mantled in snow: it is into this freedom that his book offers us escape.

The Saturday Book makes its third annual appearance, and its editor may be proud of it. There is matter in it for all tastes: stories and articles and pictures. It opens with a remarkable collection of photographs covering a hundred years of English history. We see—not from idealised drawings but from photographs—what sort of steam locomotives were plying in 1842, what kind of men fought in the Crimea, what young Mr. Charles Dickens looked like. We end with a scene on the first morning of the present war.

Batsfords have just celebrated their centenary, and Mr. Hector Bolitho has ably edited their commemorative volume *A Batsford Centenary* (10s. 6d.) in which the achievements of the house are recorded with

a pride that is to be understood and commended. It is not expected, say the publishers, that all the pages of the book will appeal to the "general reader." Nevertheless, the right reader will love this record of a hundred years in the life of a publisher-bookseller.

Batsfords have for a long time set great store by the excellence of their illustrations, and in this matter nothing is wanting in two of their books now to hand: Mr. Thomas Burke's *Travel in England* which surveys the subject from prehistoric tracks to modern airlines; and Mr. S. P. B. Mais's rambling and agreeable disquisition, *The Home Counties* (10s. 6d. each).

A more unusual book from Batsford is Mr. James Pope-Hennessy's *West Indian Summer* (12s. 6d.). The author spent a summer as A.D.C. to the Governor of Trinidad; and he is thus able to give a personal and authentic flavour to his account of visits to the islands in the past. The visitors range from Trollope and Froude to the second Duchess of Albemarle and her physician Hans Sloane. The colonial scene as it was looked at through these various eyes throughout many years is delightfully recaptured, flavoured by the author's own delicate apprehensions.

NEW WAY WITH HISTORY

Harraps give us a massive book by Hendrik van Loon called *Van Loon's Lives* (18s.). The author has had an amusing idea and uses it both to amuse and instruct. He gives us himself and a friend, living in a small Dutch town, blessed with the power to call whom they will from the dead and to spend an evening in feasting and conversation. Molière, Cervantes and Shakespeare get down to things together; St. Francis, Mozart and Hans Andersen hob-nob; and William the Silent exchanges views with George Washington. His lively colour and flowing pencil help the game along.

In *Jefferies' England* (Constable, 10s.) Mr. S. J. Looker has assembled a fine selection of this writer's work—not little "anthological" snippets, but each piece finished and complete; and another book for country-lovers is *The Idle Countryman*, by B. B. (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 10s. 6d.). This is a day-by-day record throughout a year of country sights and sounds, embellished with fine drawings by D. J. Watkins-Pitchford.

No black-and-white illustrator that I know surpasses Mervyn Peake in depicting the region where the bizarre and fantastic take on a touch of horror. His pencil has a rare sort of interpretative power, and Cole-ridge's *Ancient Mariner* is a theme made for him. The edition of the poem with his illustrations is published by Chatto and Windus (5s.) and I commend it to collectors.

FUN

If you are looking for a "funny" book, there are several. Hamish Hamilton publishes *The New Yorker War Annual* (15s.) with drawings by Peter Arno, Soglow, Steig, and many others of that school; and two books illustrated by Bert Thomas give us a native and, to me, more appealing humour. One is called *Close-ups through a Child's Eyes* (Raphael Tuck, 1s. 6d.), a set of penetrating studies of men and women of the moment (child's eyes, indeed!); the other *Marching On* (W. H. Allen, 6s.), a set of topical verses by Percy V. Bradshaw, with pictures by Mr. Thomas.

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THE ESTATE MARKET

PROPERTY IN SEASIDE RESORTS

IF anyone had assumed, from the grievous trials that property-owners and tenants in coastal areas have endured during the last four years, that there would have been a widespread disposition to get rid of houses and business premises he would have been mistaken. Such a tendency might have asserted itself but for the operation of the War Damage provisions, which assures the victims of enemy action against having to bear the whole of the consequences as an individual burden.

YEARNING FOR A CHANGE

MORE potent, however, with those interested in coastal properties is the expectation of a post-war era of popularity. With hardly an exception people will want rest and recreation after the years of work and worry, and most of them will have in their pockets the wherewithal for holidays. Hotels, lodging-houses and restaurants especially stand to benefit by the anticipated revisits to the seaside. Much besides rent and wages will be flowing into the pockets of all classes of traders on the coast. Businesses of all kinds will be resumed, and there is a growing demand that men and women who have left their trading premises to serve in the Forces and in war work shall have the right to resume occupation.

LANGFORD CASTLE

BEDFORDSHIRE, Essex, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, and Somerset, all have their parishes of Langford, and Wiltshire possesses two or three, namely, Little Langford, Steeple Langford, and the spot called Hanging Langford. The last-named, about a mile from Wylve station, is notable for the prehistoric earthwork known as Langford Castle. This treasure of antiquity, part of the Old Rectory Farm, 290 acres, a holding mainly arable and downland, is in the market by order of Major F. R. Holt-White for auction at the end of this month. The property is contiguous for more than a mile to Grovely Wood, through which ran the Roman road from Old Sarum to the Mendip Hills. As much as 60 acres of Ancient British and Roman remains are traceable in a single part of the Grovely district, between the Wiley and the Nadder.

AN EARL AND HIS UNDERWOOD

THERE was a long dispute between the people of Wishford and those of Barford about firewood from Grovely Wood. From time immemorial they had had the right to take fuel from the wood, and Wishford was allowed to cut growing underwood, whereas Barford might have only dead wood, their forbears centuries before having been persuaded—or, as records suggest, threatened—into selling the unlimited right for a yearly payment to their parish, of five pounds, by the Earl of Pembroke, lord of the manor, who disliked their intrusion into his woods. It seems that, but for the bold protest of a Barford woman, Grace Reed, in the sixteenth century, her village might have lost any right to the firewood. With four other women she entered the wood and defied the Earl's men. For that she was sent to prison, but the Justices soon released her, and affirmed their finding that Barford had an inalienable right to, at any rate, dead wood. For many centuries both Barford and Wishford folk had maintained their privilege of free fuel, by assembling for a dance beside Salisbury Cathedral, part of the ceremony consisting in thrice crying out loudly: "Grovely, Grovely and all Grovely." Originally this took place at Whitsuntide, but

later Oak Apple Day. It is the subject of an old *Wiltshire Rhyme*:

Wi' axe and hook away they goo
Ta copse at Grovely
Ta cut the woaken boughs out vrom
Tha merry greenhood tree.

SALES AND WITHDRAWALS

OVER £19,000 was realised for eight of the 10 lots into which the outlying parts of the Heveningham Hall estate of about 920 acres, at Halesworth, Suffolk, had been divided for sale. A couple of farms, extending to 67 and 77 acres respectively, did not quite reach the reserves and now await buyers. The auction was conducted by Mr. George W. Rutter (Messrs. Hampton and Sons), the joint-agents being the Suffolk office of Messrs. Woodcock and Sons. There was a large attendance at the auction in Ipswich.

Nonnington Hall, Graffham, Sussex, came under the hammer of Messrs. Hampton and Sons, at Midhurst, by order of the executors of Mr. Hulbard. It was bought in at a bid of £13,000, and remains for disposal by private negotiation. Messrs. Knight and Sons' Midhurst office co-operated with Messrs. Hampton and Sons in this auction.

Wolston Grange, a comparatively small house in the Tudor style, with a small farm, cottages and buildings and a total area of just under 100 acres, was recently withdrawn at an auction, by Messrs. James Styles and Whitlock, who have now disposed of the property.

A VICTORIAN VOCALIST

MANY will remember the name of Hayden Coffin, the famous operatic tenor who was in his hey-day about half a century ago. He sang in Gilbert and Sullivan productions, and other operas, and on concert platforms. The Kensington house that he occupied on the summit of Campden Hill has just been sold by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley and Messrs. Marsh and Parsons. The particulars of the transaction state that "a feature of the house is that it contains a specially constructed music-room."

BETTERMENT AND WORSEMENT

AMONG the many complicated problems awaiting solution in connection with re-planning and reconstruction, surely none promises to surpass that of the betterment or worsement of properties. The idea of levying a contribution from owners who were supposed to have benefited from public improvements is an old one, which was adopted to some extent in Wren's proposals for the reforming of parts of the City. The application of the principle presented so many difficulties that little was heard of it until the L.C.C. introduced it into one of their Special Acts, and an effort was made to charge certain central London sites. The task of assessment was entrusted to the late Mr. James Green, one of the most practically minded and experienced of practitioners in the fixing of compensation for property. He gave much time and thought to the matter and made his awards thereon, and again a good many years elapsed without much being heard of betterment. Logically a demand for levying a betterment rate on some sites must involve the fixation of worsement on others, and that is only part of the perplexities which the principle raises. Whether certain sites are increased in value or others are rendered of less value than they were is hypothetical, and usually can be determined beyond doubt only after a fairly long period.

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(Above) **Wool Rep** for a blouse with stiffened collar and wrist bands. The colour is royal blue and it is worn with a divided skirt in bracken brown and beige tweed and a matching blue handkerchief bordered with brown. Nicoll Clothes

PHOTOGRAPHS
DENES



(Right) **Burgundy chiffon** from Liberty with tailored collar, honeycombing below the yoke and smoke glass buttons

THE BLOUSE

under your Coat

THERE is hardly any suit this winter which is not easily converted from morning to evening by a change of accessories. That is why the blouse has come back to its own and is as important an item in the wardrobe as ever it was in the time of dashing boaters, long gored skirts and filigree silver belts. In the first 18 months of coupons women invested in tailor-mades that they knew would last for years. Now they are buying blouses of all kinds to change them and add a fresh dash of colour.

For day, there is the jumper blouse in woollen jersey with long or short sleeves and open or closed neckline; the woollen shirt in delaine or fine rep with stiffened turn-down collar and wristbands, full bishop's sleeves and rounded yoke; the checked shirt in flannel or a woollen and angora mixture in colours that match up with tweeds and can transform the tweed suit into a dress. Other day-time blouses in great demand are the striped ones in men's shirtings that wash so well and so easily, the shirts in rayon crêpes and marocains with wide flat tucks that look like yokes or yokes that end in narrow bands of tucking. There are marocain and wool blouses that tie over the waist of dark skirts and look like the top of a dress with their plain round necks and back fastening. These are no longer an accessory. They make a two-colour dress that looks one-piece.

For evening, there are silk lace jumpers, prettiest in black over flesh pink, fine black Chantilly lace blouses with flamboyant sleeves or cascading jabots, silk jersey shirts, as plain as possible, in soot black, with the round



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neck and three-quarter sleeves outlined by a sparkling single line of sequins or jet. Pastel jumpers in moiré or angel-skin are powdered with silver or gold on the turn-down collars, pockets or yokes. Ecru lace yokes are inset into chiffon blouses, wide Irish crochet collars added to titivate dark blouses, velvet ribbon slotted through white English eyelet-embroidery ruffles. Filmy real lace makes the most exquisite of all the evening blouses. Wide sleeves are drawn to tight wristbands and tied with narrow ribbon. The lace can be tinted pale beige or tea colour, and two or three different sorts combined most successfully for one garment. Coarse lace is tailored like wool and makes charming short-sleeved, V-necked blouses and jumpers which look well with a plain, dark sheath skirt and a coloured chiffon sash tied over them at the waistline. A copper-coloured lace jumper with a bronze brown skirt and a tangerine chiffon sash is charming; so is the palest of cyclamen lace with a black or navy skirt and a royal blue sash. Many people possess wide lace scarves and these can be made up by a clever needlewoman into these tailored evening blouses. In the lace department of Marshall and Snelgrove's and at The White House there are all kinds of lovely old lace and many scarves. The Mayfair designers are showing coatees and boleros in coarse white and ecru lace over a dark frock. The lace looks as crisp as a paper d'oyley.

THE tailored evening blouses in *lamé* are another charming evening accessory. They are tailored like a shirting with yokes, an Edwardian neckband and a tiny butterfly bow. These are the kind of blouses to wear with a velvet suit. These velvet suits in a wide wale are in black, very dark green, blue and a blackberry purple. They button to the throat so that they can be worn without a blouse and with a collar either white or sequined.



Dark green calf with scarlet painted wedge and laces and leather wafer sole and heel. Lotus and Delta



Navy calf with plum front and tongue cut in one, and a leather welted sole. Dolcis

follow it out exactly, it is not difficult. There were some beautifully made fur gloves in the exhibition and there are in the store all kinds of skins for making them up.

P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.

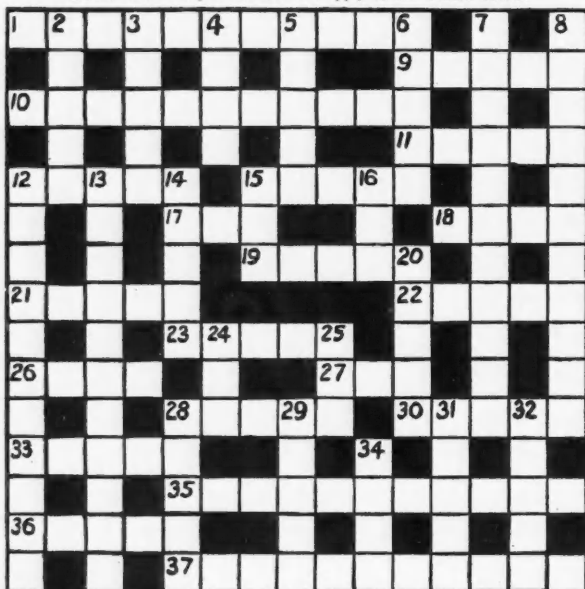
The velvet is worked horizontally on the jacket and up and down the skirt.

At the recent Make Do and Mend Exhibition held at Harrods under the auspices of the Board of Trade, all kinds of ingenious ideas for evolving blouses out of old evening clothes were featured. Blouses with *lamé* or flowered yokes and pocket flaps or collars and cuffs looked very festive and partyish. The blouse itself was in a plain pastel crêpe or marocain. The toy section at this show came in for a lot of admiration and gave many good ideas for Christmas presents. Flying ducks to hang on the pram or cot were most realistic and "cuddly" made from scraps of white Turkish towelling with orange barks of felt cut from an old curtain or cushion. The felt kangaroos and cats with families were especially life-like. American cloth in mixed brilliant colours made a attractive alphabet, the edges blanket-stitched in all shades of bright wool or string. Bricks in American cloth were equally cheerful to look at—some grouped together for pictures, others taught numbers. Rag dolls with vacuous expressions, rag cotton dresses and patchwork aprons looked as though they could take a lot of rough treatment; so did the rag gentlemen in Holland smocks and bandanas. Fur mitts and sheepskin slippers were beautifully made, and one can buy the fur skins at almost all the stores—sheepskin, lambskin, ocelot, rabbit and coney seal, also the leathers for the palms of the mitts. They make excellent Christmas gifts for children or grown-ups. Strong leather soles with sheepskin linings are available to go with curly lambskin uppers and they are not difficult to make up. Gloves are more tricky, but, provided you have a good pattern and

CROSSWORD No. 721

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 721, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, November 25, 1943.

NOTE.—This competition does not apply to the United States.



Name
(Mr., Mrs., etc.)

Address

SOLUTION TO No. 720. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of November 12, will be announced next week.

ACROSS. 1, Excise duty; 6, Acre; 9, Road to ruin; 10, Anil; 12, 13, Double-cross; 16, Elegize; 18, The stem; 19, Excises; 21, 28, Unknown quantities; 22, Taste; 23, Fawner; 27, Edit; 29, Tens; 30, Merseyside. DOWN. 1, Earl; 2, Chap; 3, Set-to; 4, Durable; 5, Trident; 7, Con-tortion; 8, Enlistment; 11, Scream; 14, Resentment; 15, Rescission; 17, Instep; 20, Suffuse; 21, Unwinds; 24, Edify; 25, Fiji; 26, Isle.

ACROSS.

1. Does the salvage collector cry, "A-hunting we will go!" at mention of these? (two words, 5, 6)
9. Ogress of whom Keats wrote (5)
10. An educated member of the apiary? (two words, 8, 3)
11. A pupil abroad (5)
12. Perfumed coins, one might think (5)
15. A tent about the East (5)
17. Found sunk in a lagoon (3)
18. Emerson said that when half these went, they themselves arrived (4)
19. A singer at tip? (5)
21. Agile (5)
22. Still more plucky (5)
23. One might shoot it at just such a speed (5)
26. Part of Coventry (4)
27. It's I! (3)
28. I am very cold in this clerical garment (5)
30. A colour (5)
33. Deadly attribute of Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos (5)
35. Red courage in a North American tribe? (two words, 6, 5)
36. Qualifying the Norse alphabet (5)
37. And this describes Jumbo (11)

DOWN.

2. Eden and Charlotté have an interest in it (5)
3. A burst of applause (5)
4. One takes it on this sometimes (4)
5. Dispute (5)
6. Snow and rain in company (5)
7. A regal member of the lepidoptera (two words, 7, 4)
8. A nixie from the ponds and lakes (two words, 5, 6)
12. Heaping them is a capital use for live embers! (three words, 5, 2, 4)
13. It produces a rash, but the disease is not caused by this! (two words, 6, 5)
14. More secure (5)
15. Overturned pot (3)
16. Consuming quality in heat? (3)
20. Eskimo house (5)
24. Prepare for war (3)
25. Across its sands the cattle were called home-ward (3)
28. She attended a famous tea-party (5)
29. Plait into ridges (5)
31. It takes cat and artist to weigh 10 milligrams (5)
32. A bird (5)
34. She came from the Five Towers, and has monetary value in India (4)

The winner of Crossword No. 719 is

Mr. David E. Roberts,
126, Cyncoed Road, Cardiff.



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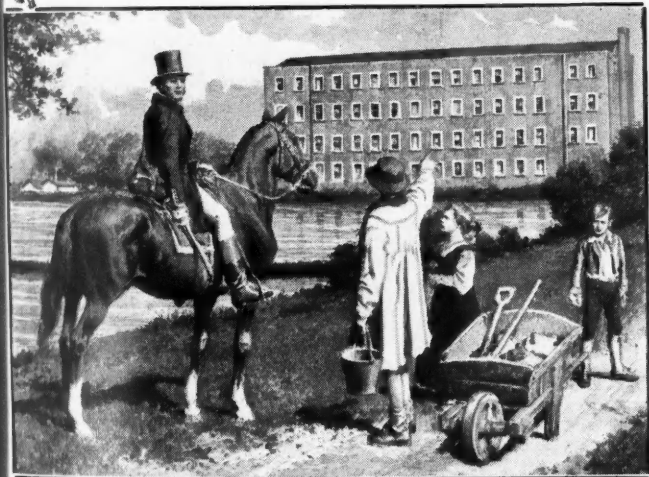
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ments of great practical benefit to old-established textile industries. Research and experiment continue to reveal new uses for "FIBRO"; indeed, there seems to be no end to its astonishing versatility. It blends easily with cotton, wool and other fibres to achieve the most fascinating designs and finishes.

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going places...

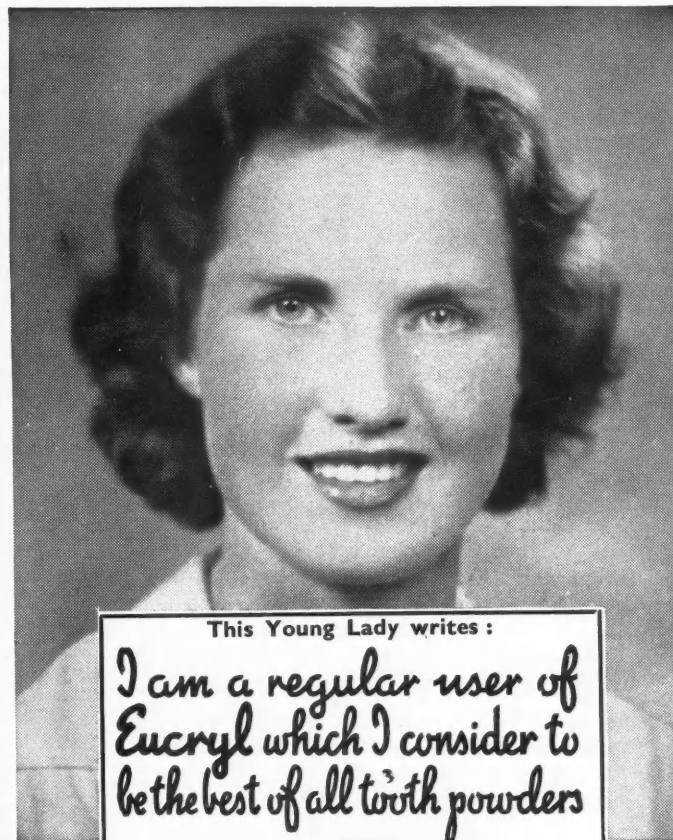
Going places? Then, maybe, it's "special" shoes! But coupons won't run to that luxury! So the wise woman chooses shoes that are smart and practical for all her activities, always finding in Norvic a style with the "special" touch. Her eye on coupon value, she chooses Norvic.

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